

A photograph of two young goats in a grassy field. The goat on the left is black and white with a brown patch on its face and blue eyes. The goat on the right is light brown with large ears and blue eyes. They are standing in a field of green grass with trees in the background.

Tennessee Small Ruminant Management Calendar 2025

Master Small Ruminant Producer

The Master Small Ruminant Producer program is designed to serve the educational needs of sheep and goat producers in Tennessee. The program gives sheep and goat producers a combination of classroom teaching and hands-on learning experiences. The learning sessions provide opportunities for producers to increase knowledge and skills needed to apply management practices necessary for profitability and sustainability of the sheep and goat industry. Educational sessions are delivered by your local UT-TSU Extension county agent.

Authors

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Cover Photo submitted
by **Holly Wood**



Photo submitted
by **Toni Loshbough**



Photo submitted by Kiley Wilson



Religious Holidays

| Holiday | Religion | 2025 | 2026 |
|---|--|---------------|---------------|
| Eid ul-Adha Festival of the Sacrifice | Islam | June 6-7 | May 26-27 |
| Muharramm/Hajra Islamic New Year | Islam | June 26-27 | June 16-17 |
| Mawlid al-Nabi Prophet's Birthday | Islam | Sep 4-5 | Aug 25-26 |
| Ramadan (month of fasting) | Islam | Feb 28-Mar 29 | Feb 17-Mar 18 |
| Eid ul-Fitr Festival of Fast Breaking | Islam | March 30-31 | March 19-20 |
| Pesch (Passover) | Judaism | April 12-20 | April 1-9 |
| Rosh Hashanah | Judaism | Sep 22-24 | Sep 11-13 |
| Chanukkah | Judaism | Dec 14-22 | Dec 4-12 |
| Western (Roman) Easter | Christianity | April 4 | April 5 |
| Eastern Orthodox (Greek) Easter | Christianity | April 20 | April 12 |
| Christmas (Western) | Christianity | Dec 25 | Dec 25 |
| Epiphany, Feast of the Nativity | Christianity | Jan 6 | Jan 6 |
| Chinese New Year | | Jan 29 | Feb 17 |
| source: sheepandgoat.com | Reprinted from Susan Schoenian, University of Maryland Extension | | |



Photo submitted by Caitlyn Monroe

JANUARY



Setting up goals for the year

It is important to have goals for your farm to determine procedures that best fit the goal of your operation.

Examples

- Increase herd numbers
- Improve genetics within herd
- Increase revenue in animals sold for market

Kidding and Lambing Season

- Pay attention to due dates and move animals into barn and/or individual pens accordingly.
- Examine females for signs of pregnancy toxemia or ketosis that is common in small ruminants later in gestation:
 - lethargy, fatigue, swollen legs, sweet smelling breath and urine, and inability to stand for long periods of time
- Take note of females in labor and be prepared to intervene if necessary.
 - Sheep – help after 15-30 minutes of no progress
 - Goats – help after 30 minutes to an hour of no progress

Fields and Forages

- Prepare for pasture renovation by purchasing seeds, inoculant, etc., and getting equipment ready.
- Inspect hay quality and inventory.
- Determine animal's forage needs and continue to ration and feed accordingly.
- Plan pasture utilization strategy (fencing, water, shelter).



Photo submitted by **Kiley Wilson**

JANUARY 2025

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| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | NOTES |
|----------------|--|----------------|------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------|
| 29 Due 5/23 | 30 Due 5/24 | 31 Due 5/25 | 1 Due 5/26 | 2 Due 5/27 | 3 Due 5/28 | 4 Due 5/29 | |
| 5 Due 5/30 | 6 Epiphany, Feast of the Nativity Due 5/31 | 7 Due 6/1 | 8 Due 6/2 | 9 Due 6/3 | 10 Due 6/4 | 11 Due 6/5 | |
| 12 Due 6/6 | 13 Due 6/7 | 14 Due 6/8 | 15 Due 6/9 | 16 Due 6/10 | 17 Due 6/11 | 18 Due 6/12 | |
| 19 Due 6/13 | 20 Due 6/14 | 21 Due 6/15 | 22 Due 6/16 | 23 Due 6/17 | 24 Due 6/18 | 25 Due 6/19 | |
| 26 Due 6/20 | 27 Due 6/21 | 28 Due 6/22 | 29 Chinese New Year Due 6/23 | 30 Due 6/24 | 31 Due 6/25 | 1 Due 6/26 | |



Contact your local UT/TSU Extension agent for more information!

Program Contact: Jessy Shanks

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FEBRUARY

Kidding and Lambing Season

- Record DOB, sex and BW accordingly along with any abnormalities noticed during and after labor.
- Allow adequate time for dam and new offspring to bond and visually confirm the offspring receiving colostrum and nursing.
- Insert ear tags and dock tails on lambs while they are young and manageable.
- If from a non-vaccinated dam lambs and kids need a CD&T shot at 1-3 weeks of age, and then two booster shots at 3-4 week intervals.
- If from a vaccinated dam lambs and kids need a CD&T shot at 1-2 months of age and a booster 3-4 weeks later.
- Provide adequate nutrition appropriate for lactating dams to build back body condition and continue lactating.
- If you are castrating males it is best to do this at a young age (around 1 week of age). Commercial producers may not want to castrate.

Fields and Forages

- Soil test pastures and hayfields.
- Add clovers to grass pastures and hayfields.

Barn Safety and Maintenance

- Keep barn aisles clear and trash free.
- Keep electrical cords clear and out of reach of livestock.
- Take note of heat lamps and ensure they are hung safely and reduce the risk of fire.
- Keep pens clean by removing wet bedding and adding dry bedding. Shavings and straw are great but need to be removed when wet and replaced.

Biosecurity

- Isolate all new animals for at least two weeks before introducing them to the herd and pastures.
- Be aware of all exposure or contact with other animals or pathogens when taken off farm.
- Avoid sharing feeding and watering equipment, stands and halters.
- Practice good personal hygiene and encourage all visitors to as well.



Photo submitted by **Holly Woods**

FEBRUARY 2025

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| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | NOTES |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---|-------|
| 26 Due 6/20 | 27 Due 6/21 | 28 Due 6/22 | 29 Due 6/23 | 30 Due 6/24 | 31 Due 6/25 | 1 Due 6/26 | |
| 2 Due 6/27 | 3 Due 6/28 | 4 Due 6/29 | 5 Due 6/30 | 6 Due 7/1 | 7 Due 7/2 | 8 Due 7/3 | |
| 9 Due 7/4 | 10 Due 7/5 | 11 Due 7/6 | 12 Due 7/7 | 13 Due 7/8 | 14 Due 7/9 | 15 Due 7/10 | |
| 16 Due 7/11 | 17 Due 7/12 | 18 Due 7/13 | 19 Due 7/14 | 20 Due 7/15 | 21 Due 7/16 | 22 Due 7/17 | |
| 23 Due 7/18 | 24 Due 7/19 | 25 Due 7/20 | 26 Due 7/21 | 27 Due 7/22 | 28 Due 7/23 | 1 Due 7/24 Ramadan (month of fasting) | |



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MARCH



Considerations for Whole Farm

- Inspect and repair fences as needed.
- Clean out all used pens, stalls, lambing jugs, etc. regularly and between different animal use.
- Maintain clean and dry bedding at all times.
- Make sure all feeding and watering equipment is in clean, working condition.

Feeding

- If using a creep feeding system for kids and lambs, start gradually exposing them to the feed source.
- A complete, palatable feed designed for kid and lamb growth should be used free choice in the creep feeder. Feed with a coccidiostat is ideal to prevent coccidiosis in growing kids and lambs.
- Ensure that feeding equipment is in a clean, dry area that only young animals can access with enough room for multiple animals to eat at once.

Fields and Forages

- Prepare for the start of hay harvest by checking equipment and ordering supplies (twine, parts, etc.).
- Utilize recommended herbicides as needed.
- Fertilize pastures and hayfields.
- Plan up to 30 percent of pasture for warm season plants and bermudagrass in heavy use areas.

Pasture Maintenance

- Consider spot spraying weeds.
- Small ruminants are excellent nutrient recyclers; they take deep rooted plants and deposit nutrient rich manure.



Photo submitted by **Sharon Clark**

MARCH 2025

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| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | NOTES |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--|----------------|-------|
| 23 Due 7/18 | 24 Due 7/19 | 25 Due 7/20 | 26 Due 7/21 | 27 Due 7/22 | 28 Due 7/23 Ramadan (month of fasting) | 1 Due 7/24 | |
| 2 Due 7/25 | 3 Due 7/26 | 4 Due 7/27 | 5 Due 7/28 | 6 Due 7/29 | 7 Due 7/30 | 8 Due 7/31 | |
| 9 Due 8/1 | 10 Due 8/2 | 11 Due 8/3 | 12 Due 8/4 | 13 Due 8/5 | 14 Due 8/6 | 15 Due 8/7 | |
| 16 Due 8/8 | 17 Due 8/9 | 18 Due 8/10 | 19 Due 8/11 | 20 Due 8/12 | 21 Due 8/13 | 22 Due 8/14 | |
| 23 Due 8/15 | 24 Due 8/16 | 25 Due 8/17 | 26 Due 8/18 | 27 Due 8/19 | 28 Due 8/20 | 29 Due 8/21 | |
| 30 Due 8/22 Eid ul-Fitr Festival of Fast Breaking | 31 Due 8/23 | | | | | | |



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APRIL

Fields and Forages

- Start hay harvest to ensure quality; timing will vary by location and could start later.
- Take samples of harvested hay after baling to find the nutrient quality before using in a ration.
- Seed supplemental warm season grasses and forages as needed.
- Utilize a rotational grazing method for pasture preservation and parasite prevention.
- Monitor hay bale temperature prior to moving hay into your barn. Above 150 degrees F should be considered a hazard.

Weaning

- Kids and lambs should receive their CD&T boosters by 30 days of age.
- As you approach weaning season at 8-12 weeks of age, prepare fences and barn set up for effective separation for weaning.
- Have a set protocol in place to reduce stress during this time.
- Pay attention to kid and lamb behavior for symptoms of illness and odd behavior.
- Young, newly weaned animals should be put on fresh, rested forage and pasture that is the best quality available.
- Be sure to maintain clean and dry bedding in pens for lambs and kids.

Herd Evaluation

- Evaluate herd and cull poor performers, dams and sires that do not match the goals of your program.
- Identify goals for kid and lamb crop (sell to market, sell/keep as replacement female or sire, sell as show prospect, etc.).
- Evaluate breeding animals to determine best route for recuperation to prepare for the next breeding season.

APRIL 2025

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| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | NOTES |
|---|----------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------|---|----------------|-------|
| 30 Due 8/22 | 31 Due 8/23 | 1 Due 8/24 | 2 Due 8/25 | 3 Due 8/26 | 4 Western (Roman) Easter Due 8/27 | 5 Due 8/28 | |
| 6 Due 8/29 | 7 Due 8/30 | 8 Due 8/31 | 9 Due 9/1 | 10 Due 9/2 | 11 Due 9/3 | 12 Due 9/4 | |
| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 Pesch (Passover) | 17 | 18 | 19 | |
| Due 9/5 | Due 9/6 | Due 9/7 | Due 9/8 | Due 9/9 | Due 9/10 | Due 9/11 | |
| 20 Eastern Orthodox (Greek) Easter Due 9/12 | 21 Due 9/13 | 22 Due 9/14 | 23 Due 9/15 | 24 Due 9/16 | 25 Due 9/17 | 26 Due 9/18 | |
| 27 Due 9/19 | 28 Due 9/20 | 29 Due 9/21 | 30 Due 9/22 | 1 Due 9/23 | 2 Due 9/24 | 3 Due 9/25 | |



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MAY



Fields and Forages

- Continue harvesting hay.
- Continue seeding warm-season forages as needed.
- Monitor hay bale temperature prior to moving hay into your barn. Above 140-150 degrees F should be considered a hazard.

Doe and Ewe Health

- Now that kids and lambs are weaned, it is time for females to get back into proper working condition.
- Make sure that all dams are up to date on deworming and other scheduled health protocols.
- Schedule shearing for wool sheep and check for Tennessee Sheep Producers Wool Pool information.

Kid and Lamb Health

- Coccidiosis is a common health concern in the spring from a combination of wet weather and fresh, green pasture. Symptoms include diarrhea, lethargy, dehydration, and anorexia.
- Use the FAMACHA scoring system and fecal egg counts to determine parasite loads.
- Confer with your vet to determine best route of prevention and treatment of parasites.



Photo submitted by **Janae Foss**

MAY 2025

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| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | NOTES |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------|
| 27 Due 9/19 | 28 Due 9/20 | 29 Due 9/21 | 30 Due 9/22 | 1 Due 9/23 | 2 Due 9/24 | 3 Due 9/25 | |
| 4 Due 9/26 | 5 Due 9/27 | 6 Due 9/28 | 7 Due 9/29 | 8 Due 9/30 | 9 Due 10/1 | 10 Due 10/2 | |
| 11 Due 10/3 | 12 Due 10/4 | 13 Due 10/5 | 14 Due 10/6 | 15 Due 10/7 | 16 Due 10/8 | 17 Due 10/9 | |
| 18 Due 10/10 | 19 Due 10/11 | 20 Due 10/12 | 21 Due 10/13 | 22 Due 10/14 | 23 Due 10/15 | 24 Due 10/16 | |
| 25 Due 10/17 | 26 Due 10/18 | 27 Due 10/19 | 28 Due 10/20 | 29 Due 10/21 | 30 Due 10/22 | 31 Due 10/23 | |



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JUNE

Barn Management

- Implement an effective fly and pest control management system through any combination of fly sprays, dusts, traps, pour ons or mineral supplements.
- Ensure that stalls and pens are being cleaned out properly to reduce ammonia levels and fly attraction.

Breeding Season Preparation

- 45 days before breeding season, line up AI days, stud sire semen and donor dams.
- Select a sire based on desired outcomes by taking genetics, breed, and genotypic preferences into consideration.
- Have a breeding season protocol in place for artificial insemination, synchronized live coverage or natural live coverage.

Fields and Forages

- Continue harvesting hay.
- Rotate pastures accordingly.
- Ensure harvested hay is protected from environmental elements to reduce nutritional value loss.
- Monitor hay bale temperature prior to moving hay into your barn. Above 150 degrees F should be considered a hazard.



Photo submitted by **Holly Wilkerson**

JUNE 2025

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| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | NOTES |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|---|---|-----------------|-------|
| 1 Due 10/24 | 2 Due 10/25 | 3 Due 10/26 | 4 Due 10/27 | 5 Due 10/28 | 6 Due 10/29 Eid ul-Adha Festival of the Sacrifice | 7 Due 10/30 | |
| 8 Due 10/31 | 9 Due 11/1 | 10 Due 11/2 | 11 Due 11/3 | 12 Due 11/4 | 13 Due 11/5 | 14 Due 11/6 | |
| 15 Due 11/7 | 16 Due 11/8 | 17 Due 11/9 | 18 Due 11/10 | 19 Due 11/11 | 20 Due 11/12 | 21 Due 11/13 | |
| 22 Due 11/14 | 23 Due 11/15 | 24 Due 11/16 | 25 Due 11/17 | 26 Due 11/18 Muharramm/Hajra Islamic New Year | 27 Due 11/19 | 28 Due 11/20 | |
| 29 Due 11/21 | 30 Due 11/22 | 1 Due 11/23 | 2 Due 11/24 | 3 Due 11/25 | 4 Due 11/26 | 5 Due 11/27 | |



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JULY



Breeding Season

- 45 days prior to breeding season, bucks and rams should have a breeding soundness exam including semen evaluation, inspection of teeth, eyes, feet, legs, and sheath and testicle condition.
- Ensure that both males and females are in proper body condition to enter breeding season. (Refer to BCS Scoring chart in the back)

Herd Health

- Ensure there is fresh, clean water that is easily accessible by all animals in herd.
- Consider vaccine and deworming protocols to be implemented before breeding season.

Fields and Forages

- Clip pastures if grass or weeds get too tall.



Photo submitted by **Holly Wood**

JULY 2025

UTSMALLRUMINANT.UTK.EDU

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | NOTES |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------|
| 29 Due 11/21 | 30 Due 11/22 | 1 Due 11/23 | 2 Due 11/24 | 3 Due 11/25 | 4 Due 11/26 | 5 Due 11/27 | |
| 6 Due 11/28 | 7 Due 11/29 | 8 Due 11/30 | 9 Due 12/1 | 10 Due 12/2 | 11 Due 12/3 | 12 Due 12/4 | |
| 13 Due 12/5 | 14 Due 12/6 | 15 Due 12/7 | 16 Due 12/8 | 17 Due 12/9 | 18 Due 12/10 | 19 Due 12/11 | |
| 20 Due 12/12 | 21 Due 12/13 | 22 Due 12/14 | 23 Due 12/15 | 24 Due 12/16 | 25 Due 12/17 | 26 Due 12/18 | |
| 27 Due 12/19 | 28 Due 12/20 | 29 Due 12/21 | 30 Due 12/22 | 31 Due 12/23 | 1 Due 12/24 | 2 Due 12/25 | |



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AUGUST



Breeding Season

- Keep an eye on females in heat and be sure that they are exposed to a buck within their period of heat, preferably for two cycles.
- If using a marking crayon, be sure that each buck in service has a different marking color for record purposes and change colors every 17-22 days.
- Keep a log of each time the female is marked for potential due dates.

Herd Health

- Perform fecal egg counts to determine parasite loads and best route of treatment.
- Water intake will be higher in hotter months, so be sure that water troughs and equipment are clean.

Show Season

- Regardless of species, a common goal during show season should be to minimize disease susceptibility and maintain health.
- Before your animals ever enter the barns stalls and pens should be cleaned. Previous bedding should be removed, pens should be disinfected and fresh bedding should be put down.
- If possible, avoid allowing animals from different farms to touch, drink from the same buckets, etc.
- Once home, all equipment should be cleaned and disinfected.

Fields and Forages

- Consider seeding cool season grasses between August 15 and October 1.
- Ensure that there is continuous browsing and grazing opportunities for sheep and goats.



Photo submitted by **Carl Myers**

AUGUST 2025

UTSMALLRUMINANT.UTK.EDU

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | NOTES |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|-------|
| 27 Due 12/19 | 28 Due 12/20 | 29 Due 12/21 | 30 Due 12/22 | 31 Due 12/23 | 1 Due 12/24 | 2 Due 12/25 | |
| 3 Due 12/26 | 4 Due 12/27 | 5 Due 12/28 | 6 Due 12/29 | 7 Due 12/30 | 8 Due 12/31 | 9 Due 1/1 | |
| 10 Due 1/2 | 11 Due 1/3 | 12 Due 1/4 | 13 Due 1/5 | 14 Due 1/6 | 15 Due 1/7 | 16 Due 1/8 | |
| 17 Due 1/9 | 18 Due 1/10 | 19 Due 1/11 | 20 Due 1/12 | 21 Due 1/13 | 22 Due 1/14 | 23 Due 1/15 | |
| 24 Due 1/16 | 25 Due 1/17 | 26 Due 1/18 | 27 Due 1/19 | 28 Due 1/20 | 29 Due 1/21 | 30 Due 1/22 | |
| 31 Due 1/23 | | | | | | | |



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SEPTEMBER

Breeding Season

- Ensure both males and females are in proper BCS to enter breeding season.
- Be familiar with breeding protocols used within the herd.
- Ensure there is enough energy provided through feed and forage supply. Increasing an energy source is typical to avoid pregnancy toxemia.
- 45-60 days after being marked or visually bred, pregnancy check via ultrasound, blood test or other method is best utilized to determine next steps for the health of the dam.
- Contact your vet for recommendations.

Fields and Forages

- Continue taking soil samples to determine soil needs.
- Continue harvesting hay as needed.
- Seed tall fescue in the fall and overseed a legume in early Spring.
- Keep an eye out for toxic weeds as forage becomes less available. Sheep and goats will consume these if forage is low and that is their only option.



Photo submitted by **Holly Wood**

SEPTEMBER 2025

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| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | NOTES |
|----------------|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|--|----------------|----------------|-------|
| 31 Due 1/23 | 1 Due 1/24 | 2 Due 1/25 | 3 Due 1/26 | 4 Due 1/27 Mawlid al-Nabi Prophet's Birthday | 5 Due 1/28 | 6 Due 1/29 | |
| 7 Due 1/30 | 8 Due 1/31 | 9 Due 2/1 | 10 Due 2/2 | 11 Due 2/3 | 12 Due 2/4 | 13 Due 2/5 | |
| 14 Due 2/6 | 15 Due 2/7 | 16 Due 2/8 | 17 Due 2/9 | 18 Due 2/10 | 19 Due 2/11 | 20 Due 2/12 | |
| 21 Due 2/13 | 22 Due 2/14 Rosh Hashanah | 23 Due 2/15 | 24 Due 2/16 | 25 Due 2/17 | 26 Due 2/18 | 27 Due 2/19 | |
| 28 Due 2/20 | 29 Due 2/21 | 30 Due 2/22 | 1 Due 2/23 | 2 Due 2/24 | 3 Due 2/25 | 4 Due 2/26 | |



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OCTOBER



Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program

- Enrollment applications for the following year are due the first week of October.

Fields and Forages

- Soil test hay fields and pastures to identify things needed to restore soil and forage quality.
- Prussic acid (cyanide) poisoning can occur after allowing animals to graze summer annuals after frost.
- Broadleaf weed control should be implemented in pastures.
- Seed winter annuals in warm season forages.
- More management is typically needed, not more seed.



Photo submitted by **Miranda Rush**

OCTOBER 2025

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| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | NOTES |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------|
| 28 Due 2/20 | 29 Due 2/21 | 30 Due 2/22 | 1 Due 2/23 | 2 Due 2/24 | 3 Due 2/25 | 4 Due 2/26 | |
| 5 Due 2/27 | 6 Due 2/28 | 7 Due 3/1 | 8 Due 3/2 | 9 Due 3/3 | 10 Due 3/4 | 11 Due 3/5 | |
| 12 Due 2/6 | 13 Due 3/6 | 14 Due 3/7 | 15 Due 3/8 | 16 Due 3/9 | 17 Due 3/10 | 18 Due 3/11 | |
| 19 Due 3/12 | 20 Due 3/13 | 21 Due 3/14 | 22 Due 3/15 | 23 Due 3/16 | 24 Due 3/17 | 25 Due 3/18 | |
| 26 Due 3/19 | 27 Due 3/20 | 28 Due 3/21 | 29 Due 3/22 | 30 Due 3/23 | 31 Due 3/24 | 1 Due 3/25 | |



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NOVEMBER



Care During Gestation

- Monitor dams for abnormal behaviors.
- 30 days prior to kidding or lambing due date (around four months gestation), administer CD&T and Chlamydia to all dams.
- Vaccinate sires with CD&T and Chlamydia and booster annually.

Barn Management

- Start preparing for winter and colder weather.
- Ensure quality hay is obtained and begin feeding.
- Inspect hay feeding equipment.
- Winterize the barn: drop wind screens, close barn doors, bed stall areas down heavier.
- Wrap exposed pipes and water spigots to prevent them freezing or bursting.
- Make sure feed is off the ground or in closeable containers to prevent mice, rodents and other unwanted pests.

Fields and Forages

- Take note of standing forage and hay supply.
- If needed, begin utilizing baled hay and provide continuous access to the herd.
- Continue rotating pastures before any impressionable damage occurs to soil, grasses, water supply, etc.



Photo submitted by **Janae Foss**

NOVEMBER 2025

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| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | NOTES |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------|
| 26 Due 3/19 | 27 Due 3/20 | 28 Due 3/21 | 29 Due 3/22 | 30 Due 3/23 | 31 Due 3/24 | 1 Due 3/25 | |
| 2 Due 3/26 | 3 Due 3/27 | 4 Due 3/28 | 5 Due 3/29 | 6 Due 3/30 | 7 Due 3/31 | 8 Due 4/1 | |
| 9 Due 4/2 | 10 Due 4/3 | 11 Due 4/4 | 12 Due 4/5 | 13 Due 4/6 | 14 Due 4/7 | 15 Due 4/8 | |
| 16 Due 4/9 | 17 Due 4/10 | 18 Due 4/11 | 19 Due 4/12 | 20 Due 4/13 | 21 Due 4/14 | 22 Due 4/15 | |
| 23 Due 4/16 | 24 Due 4/17 | 25 Due 4/18 | 26 Due 4/19 | 27 Due 4/20 | 28 Due 4/21 | 29 Due 4/22 | |
| 30 Due 4/23 | | | | | | | |



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DECEMBER



Care During Gestation, Continued

- Pregnancy toxemia is common in heavily bred does and ewes. This is a negative energy balance, and they are not taking in enough energy to maintain themselves and the fetus. Ensure enough energy is being provided and look for abnormal behaviors including lethargy, fatigue, swollen legs, sweet smelling breath and urine, and inability to stand for long periods of time.

Feeding

- Feed hay up off the ground in clean bunks or racks.
- Pay attention to feed quality. Moldy or fermented feed can cause a variety of health problems including listeriosis, circling disease, etc.

Master Small Ruminant Program

- Contact your local Extension office for registration details for Spring MSRP courses.

Preparing for Kidding and Lambing Season

- Prepare lambing and kidding jugs and pens.
- Make sure that each area has adequate space and is clean and freshly bedded with clean equipment.
- Check all supplies like colostrum, tubing equipment, electrolytes, OB chains/tape, scales and gloves.

Supplies to keep on hand:

- Gloves, milk replacer, frozen colostrum, stomach tubes and 30cc tube syringe, bottles and nipples, towels, electrolytes, heat lamps and a good relationship with your veterinarian.



Photo submitted by Ashlee Hoover

DECEMBER 2025

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| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY | NOTES |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------|----------------|-------|
| 30 Due 4/23 | 1 Due 4/24 | 2 Due 4/25 | 3 Due 4/26 | 4 Due 4/27 | 5 Due 4/28 | 6 Due 4/29 | |
| 7 Due 4/30 | 8 Due 5/1 | 9 Due 5/2 | 10 Due 5/3 | 11 Due 5/4 | 12 Due 5/5 | 13 Due 5/6 | |
| 14 Due 5/7 | 15 Due 5/8 | 16 Due 5/9 | 17 Due 5/10 | 18 Due 5/11 | 19 Due 5/12 | 20 Due 5/13 | |
| Chanukkah | | | | | | | |
| 21 Due 5/14 | 22 Due 5/15 | 23 Due 5/16 | 24 Due 5/17 | 25 Due 5/18 | 26 Due 5/19 | 27 Due 5/20 | |
| Chanukkah | | | | Christmas (Western) | | | |
| 28 Due 5/21 | 29 Due 5/22 | 30 Due 5/23 | 31 Due 5/24 | 1 Due 5/25 | 2 Due 5/26 | 3 Due 5/27 | |



Contact your local UT/TSU Extension agent for more information!

Program Contact: Jessy Shanks

Email: jharri50@tennessee.edu Phone: 865-974-4160

Body Condition Scoring Chart

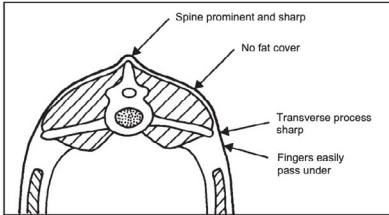


Figure 4.—Condition 1

Condition 1 – Emaciated

- Spinous processes are sharp and prominent.
- Loin eye muscle is shallow with no fat cover.
- Transverse processes are sharp; one can pass fingers under ends.
- It is possible to feel between each process.

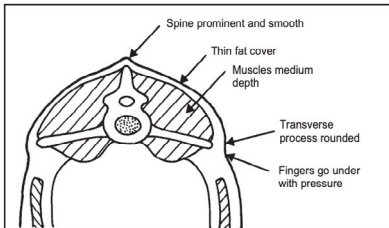


Figure 5.—Condition 2

Condition 2 – Thin

- Spinous processes are sharp and prominent. Loin eye muscle has little fat cover but is full.
- Transverse processes are smooth and slightly rounded.
- It is possible to pass fingers under the ends of the transverse processes with a little pressure.

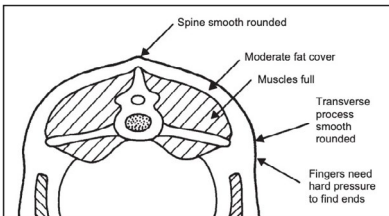


Figure 6.—Condition 3

Condition 3 – Average

- Spinous processes are smooth and rounded and one can feel individual processes only with pressure.
- Transverse processes are smooth and well covered, and firm pressure is needed to feel over the ends.
- Loin eye muscle is full with some fat cover.

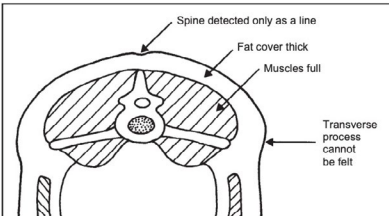


Figure 7.—Condition 4

Condition 4 – Fat

- Spinous processes can be detected only with pressure as a hard line.
- Transverse processes cannot be felt.
- Loin eye muscle is full with a thick fat cover.

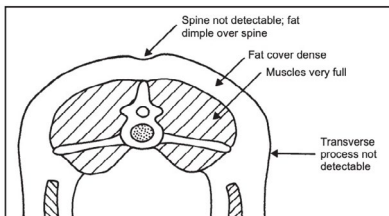


Figure 8.—Condition 5

Condition 5 - Obese

- Spinous processes can't be detected. There is a depression between fat where spine would normally be felt. Transverse processes cannot be detected. Loin eye muscle very full with very thick fat cover.



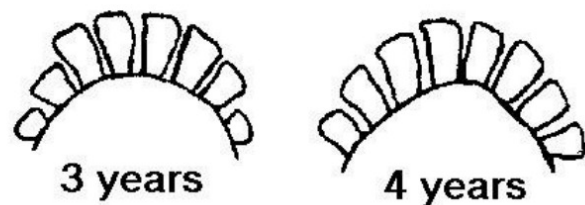
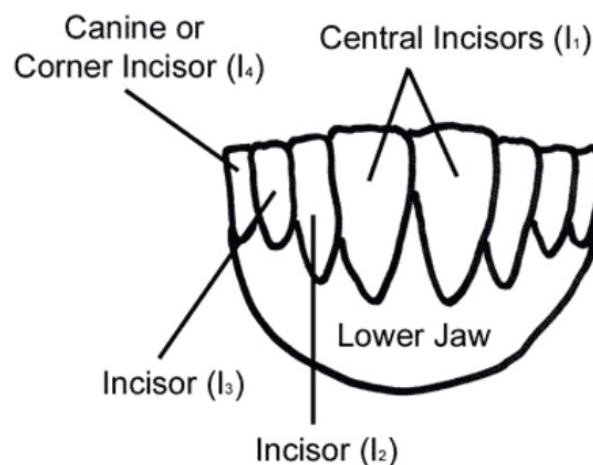
Photo submitted by **Emily Beach**



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Sheep Dental Aging

| Permanent Tooth Eruption in Sheep and Goats | |
|---|-----------------|
| Permanent tooth | Age at Eruption |
| Incisor (I ₁) | 1-1.5 years |
| Incisor (I ₂) | 1.5-2 years |
| Incisor (I ₃) | 2.5-3 years |
| Incisor (I ₄) | 3.5-4 years |
| Premolars | 1.5-2 years |
| Molar (M ₁) | 3 months |
| Molar (M ₂) | 9-12 months |
| Molar (M ₃) | 1.5-2 years |



Notice the spread between teeth as the sheep ages. Deciduous lamb teeth are replaced by incisors, one pair each year. Extremely old ewes will lose all their teeth eventually and become "gummers."

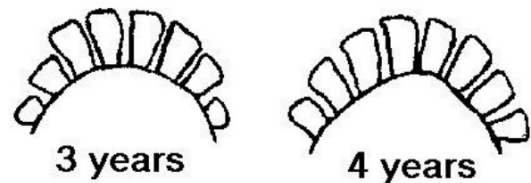
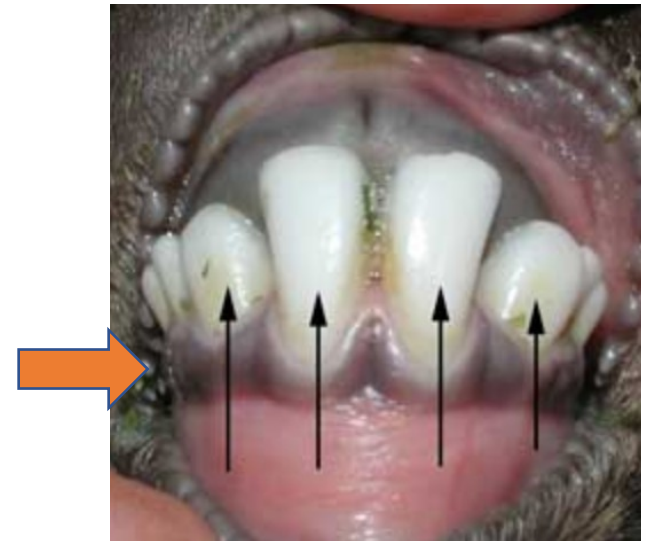
Lambs are born with eight milk teeth, these are deciduous teeth that will fall out and be replaced by permanent incisors, they are much smaller than permanent teeth.

Goat Dental Aging



Goats have a total of 32 teeth and no upper incisors. Only a dental pad (left) exists on the upper jaw. They also have molars in the back on the lower jaw which are used to crush and grind feed and forage.

This picture indicates a 1.5-2 year old goat with four permanent incisors on the lower jaw.



Notice the spread between teeth as the goat ages. Deciduous milk teeth are replaced by incisors, one pair each year. After 4 years, it's hard to estimate age because of uneven wear, environment and diet.

Kids are born with two milk teeth, more erupt from the center outward, so they have four sets or eight milk teeth by the time the kid is approximately one month old. These are deciduous teeth that will fall out and be replaced by permanent incisors, they are much smaller than permanent teeth.

Source: photos & information from www.infovets.com





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