

# Lambing & Kidding

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# Nutrition

- Rations need to be balanced for energy, protein, minerals and vitamins
  - Energy required in greatest quantity
  - Energy usually most limiting nutrient
- Water is the most important nutrient
- Roughage (long fiber) is critical to good nutrition and rumen health



# Vitamins & Minerals

- Dietary requirements for Vitamins A, D, and E
- Major minerals:
  - Calcium, Phosphorus, Salt, and Magnesium
- Trace minerals:
  - Selenium, Iodine, Copper, Molybdenum, and Manganese

# Vaccinations

- Can vaccinate sheep and goats for
  - Clostridial diseases
  - Soremouth
  - Abortion
  - Caseous lymphadenitis
  - Footrot
  - Bacterial pneumonia
  - Rabies
  - Others



# Vaccinations

- Universally recommended vaccine for sheep and goats is Overeating disease and tetanus (CD-T)
  - Overeating disease Type C affects lambs and kids under one month of age
  - Overeating disease Type D affects lambs and kids over one month of age
  - Tetanus affects sheep and goats of any age
    - Higher risk at time of docking, castrating, and disbudding

# Vaccinations

- Recommended CD-T vaccination protocol
  - Vaccinate ewes and does 4-6 weeks prior to lambing/kidding, if have never been vaccinated requires two doses 4 weeks apart prior to parturition
  - Vaccinate lambs/kids approximately 6-8 and 10-12 weeks of age; earlier vaccinations may not be as effective
  - Vaccinate bucks, rams, and wethers annually

# Internal Parasites

- Immunity is comprised at parturition and becomes primary source of infection for lambs/kids grazing summer pastures



# Barn Preparation

- Clean, dry, and well-ventilated with easy access to feed and water
- Drop area or pen
- Jugs (pens): 1 per 7-10 ewes/does
- Nursery pens for small numbers
- Mixing pens for larger numbers
- Creep area
- Bottle lamb/kid pen





# Outside or Pasture Lambing/Kidding

- Clean, well-drained soils
- Break from wind
- Shade and shelter
- Easy observation and access
- Plan for inclement weather, mothering issues, and predators



# Organize Supplies Ahead of Time

- Vaccines
- Colostrum
- Disinfectant
- Docking, castrating, and/or disbudding equipment
- Ear tags and tagging equipment
- Feeding tuber
- Feeding bottles and nipples
- Lamb/kid pullers
- Medications
- Needles – 18 to 20 gauge and  $\frac{1}{2}$  or  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch
- Syringes
- OB gloves and lubricant
- Prolapse harness and/or retainer
- Quick ID (spray or crayon marker)
- Record keeping notebook or device
- Scale and sling for weighing and/or carrying
- Scissors/scalpel blade
- Thermometer
- Towels/rags

# Why lambing/kidding jugs?

- Bonding between ewe/doe and lamb(s)/kid(s)
  - Especially important more first-time moms and multiple births
- Individual feeder and water
- Observation of ewe/doe and lamb(s)/kid(s)



# Importance of Colostrum

- Should be ingested within first few hours of birth; require 10% of body weight in colostrum (10 lb. newborn requires 16 oz. of colostrum, split into several feedings)
- Must consume during first 18-24 hours to receive benefit



# Colostrum Sources

- Best Sources
  - Dam of the lamb/kid
  - Older female in the same flock or herd
  - Land O'Lakes colostrum replacer which contains immunoglobulins (igG)
  - Fresh or frozen colostrum from other farms
    - Risk of some diseases
- Less Desirable Sources
  - Colostrum supplements
  - Homemade colostrum
  - Lamb/kid milk replacer
  - Multi-species milk replacer

# Tubing a Lamb Video

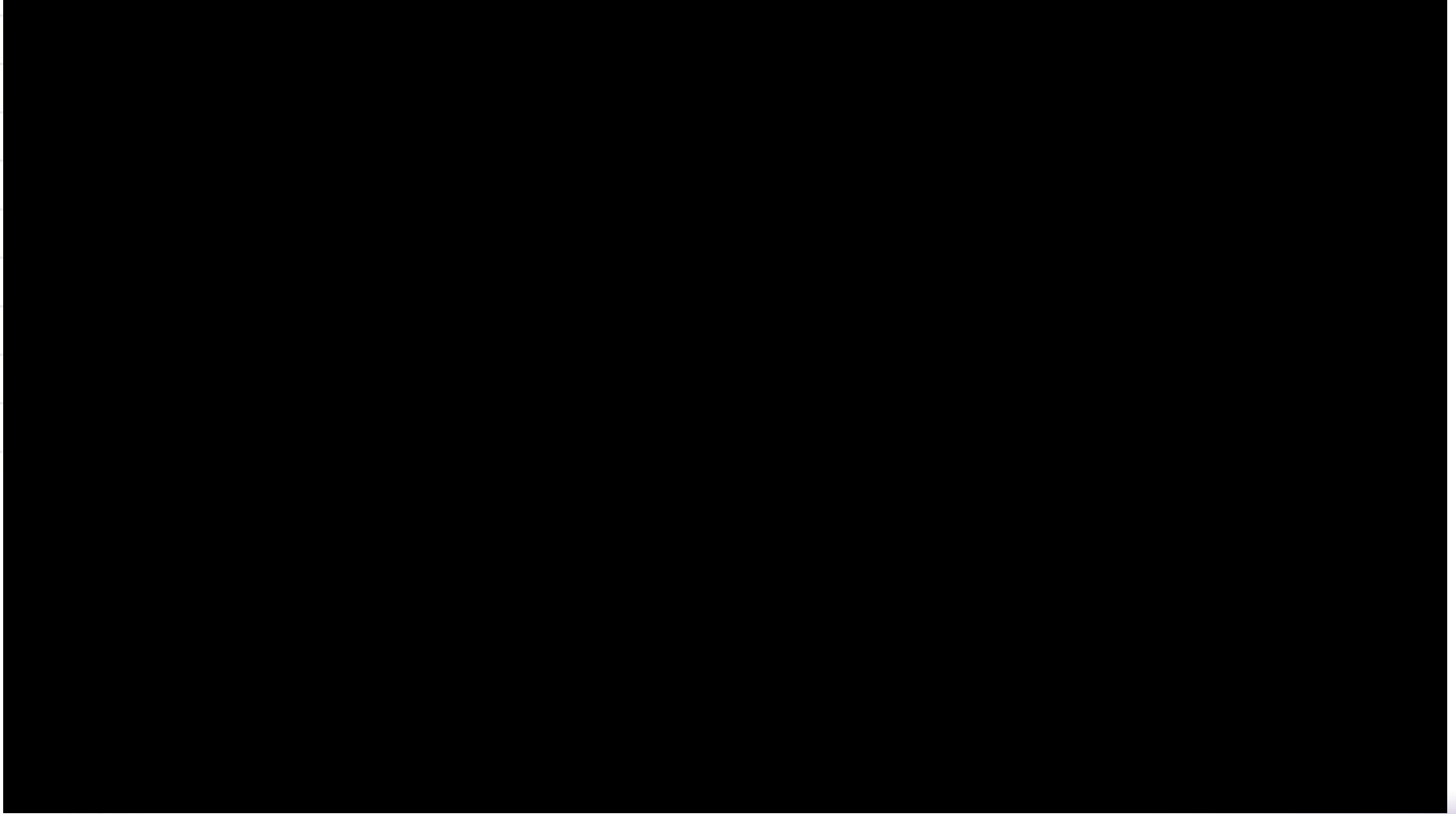
- <https://www.facebook.com/RileyCountyExtension/videos/884294585716357>

# Dystocia Issues

- Failure to transition from stage I to stage II labor or little to no progress after 30 minutes of stage II labor
- Ringwomb, Narrow pelvis, Fetal malpresentation, Fetal oversize, Simultaneous presentation of twins, Uterine torsion, Fetal monsters



# Kid/Lamb Stimulation & Revival





# Questions?

