MISSION:
"SUPPORTING,
PROTECTING AND
PROMOTING
NEBRASKA'S SHEEP
AND GOAT
PRODUCERS"



- CDT VACCINE
- WHAT TO DO
 WITH WEAK
 LAMBS/KIDS
- NATIONAL MIWW RE-SULTS
- LAMBING/ KIDDING SCHOOL HI-LIGHTS

Upcoming Events:

Annual Conference and Meeting September 9-10

4S Goat Expo Show and Sale September 23 & 24



Newsletter

VOLUME IO, ISSUE I

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Lambing & Kidding Addition Are you ready?

Daaan's Bleats

This has been quite the winter in Nebraska. The good side is that we are receiving moisture but also included are cold, snow, ice, mud, and other weather discomforts. I have named my left leg 'Hay' and my right leg 'Grass', so that each step I take reminds me that today's challenges should result in better conditions ahead.

Here in Nebraska we are celebrating national champion Make It With Wool Senior Division winner Saidi Ringenberg of Lexington and Fourth runner-up Emma Olson of Sargent in the Junior Division. Saidi also received two other special awards at the national competition in Fort Worth, the Senior Division Exemplary Construction Award and second place Creative Machine Embroidery. The contest has been held for 75 years. One of my mentees while I was in Kansas won that state's competition but did not compete nationally. This is special. I wish to thank Andrea Nisley, our state MIWW director, for her efforts with this program each year. Congratulations.

Notes from the National ASI Convention in Fort Worth, TX, January 18-21, indicated the 5th largest attendance in the last decade with 422 registrations. Many tours and receptions were provided. Over 51 presentations were given regarding key issues to the sheep industry and three dozen policies were adopted at council, committee, and board meetings to guide the association. The 2024 ASI Convention will be held in Denver, CO January 8-10. That event will be close enough for many Nebraskans to attend. I encourage you start planning now for a national sheep get together.

The NSGPA has held two well-attended Lambing/Kidding Clinics. The one held February 21 had about 40 persons present for speakers and tours near Syracuse, Nebraska. Inclement weather forced the February 28 Clinic at Gordon to go virtual and still hosted 15 attendees. Terrific information was shared by the speakers and ideas by the tour hosts.

As many of us are applying tips we gleaned from these clinics and other sources or experience I would like to share a Cowboy Sheep Poem I wrote a few years ago that you may relate to.

Is It That Time Already?

By Dan Stehlik

Is it that time already? I've laid wrong, my shoulder is sore. Gee I'd like to stay under cover, even for just ten minutes more.

But it's one o'clock in the morning and probably cold outside. And there's babies that need to be fed. I mix the bottles, gear up, and leave behind the warmth of my bed. It's clear and crisp when I step outdoors, but at least there's no wind as I crawl into my truck.

I drive the short distance to the lambing yard. Let's see what will be tonight's luck. The twins meet me at the gate and empty their bottles so fast. No matter what time I arrive, they think that I'm late, and always glad to see me at last

I round the corner to the pen with the heavies. I step between bodies, sleeping or chewing their cud. They're all here, no wait, there's one missing. It's sure nice not to be trudging through mud. I peak inside the lambing shed, yesterday's mothers and babies under the light.

There's soft mother sounds and movement in the corner. I step closer to see if everything is all right. A ewe stomps her foot as I come near, then turns back to the task at hand.

She's licking and licking, and giving attention to one, no, to two little lambs. I grab a leg and iodine the navel and replace them to a pen of their own. Mother follows and resumes her duty, it looks like this will be a good morn.

Occasionally I have to halter a ewe, sleeve up and reach inside for the feet. It can be chilly without coveralls or coat, as I give Mother Nature a 'helping hand' so to speak.

Sometimes, there's multiple moms at work. Now and then a lamb that got cold. Some need that first milk tubed direct. As often as I do this, it never gets old.

After watching families for a while, I finally head back to the house, marveling at the instincts as I walk in the door. Is it that time already? I was only out for a short while, but it's nearly a quarter past four!

Daniel Stehlik, President NSGPA

What Does Sustainability Mean to You?

It seems like certain words get coined these days in the media or politics in an attempt to sound some type of deep-seeded alarm in your conscious. Before long these terms trickle sown to your everyday conversations at the feed store or local coffee shop. A clear example of this is oft-used expression "sustainability", something we can all agree is likely a good thing, but are likely a little vague on the definition of. I suppose it depends on the context of the word and the ideals of the person using it.

To be honest with you, the term sustainability has a different meaning to me depending on my mood. Some days, I would argue that modern agriculture needs to make some major adjustments to sustain itself and the natural resources it depends upon. Other days, I would argue that agriculture is one of the most sustainable of all industries. Maybe, both statements are true.

What I don't waiver on is that agriculture seems to be disproportionally accused of being unsustainable when it coms to climate change or green house gas emissions. I suspect that it is because farmers only represent 2% of the population and can't fund a wide reaching "sustainability marketing campaign" to inform people of their environmentally friendly efforts. Too use another buzzword we take more "grass roots" approach. I have been pleasantly surprised by the number of outspoken farmers/ranchers on social media sharing their daily life and how their enterprises are built to last for generations. I'll give extra kudos to the sheep and goat producers leading this effort. Often I see something on social media that alludes to the fact that small ruminants, who've existed as we know them for thousands of years, should hardly be public enemy No. 1 for a present day climate issue I just hope the right people are seeing these messages. Keep up the good work!

I am fortunate to have been asked to serve on the Sustainability Task Force for the American Lamb Board. This taskforce is working to create a sustainability strategy for the U.S. sheep industry, including but certainly not limited climate related points. For me it

has been helpful to hear others views on the positive and negative sustainability aspects of the U.S. sheep industry. This taskforce will outlined this strategy at the ASI annual convention, which was held in January in Fort Worth, TX.

In the meantime, I hope you begin thinking about the sustainability of your sheep and/or goat operations. Maybe the best definition that I've heard of sustainable agriculture is production practices that satisfy human food and fiber needs, enhance environmental quality, efficiently use natural resources, are profitable, and enhance farmer quality of life. While this definition can be a bit wordy, it is important that we don't just focus on one aspect, such as climate change. Maybe just ask yourself and honest question—If I keep what I'm doing now, will my operation still exist in 50 years?

From my perspective, sheep and goat operations greatest strength is our history. So many of the ranches that support sheep and goat production have been operated by the same families for decades. Things that stand the test of time are "sustainable". In contrast, our greatest weakness is the relatively low return on investment. I'm not saying that sheep and goats aren't profitable. Rather, the investments required such as land, fencing, facilities, and equipment are extremely high compared to even a few decades ago. These costs are largely beyond the control of most ranchers, but the trend is a serious concern, nonetheless.

However, this can be used as a positive message to consumers and environmentalist. "Ranchers produce food and fiber for the world because they have a calling to care for the land, livestock, and environment. Most ranchers would see a higher rate of return, if they sold their land and invested elsewhere. Therefore, profit is not the focus, rather a means to sustain themselves and continue their ranching legacy for generations to come."

By Reid Redden, Texas A&M Extension Sheep & Goat Specialist



One measure of 'sustainability' is the perceived treatment and welfare of livestock used in producing fiber. In answer to market players—buyers, mills, designers—wanting the raw materials they use to be produced in a 'sustainable manner' the industry has come up with programs to assure the market and consumers that the wool mohair they are buying was produced 'sustainably.' There are several such programs. On the left is the ASI Association's logo for its American wool Assurance program. On the right is the 'American Mohair Assurance' logo for the sustainable production of mohair in the US.



CDT vaccinations

There are many diseases for which sheep and goats can be vaccinated, but there is only one universally-recommended vaccine, and it is for the clostridial diseases that commonly affect small ruminants.

Clostridial diseases are fatal diseases that strike ruminant livestock suddenly, often causing death before any clinical signs are seen. Clostridia (bacteria) are widespread in the environment. They are normally found in the soil and feces. They are also present in the digestive tract and tissues of healthy animals. For these reasons, vaccination is the best way to prevent disease outbreaks.

Two clostridial vaccines are commonly used in sheep and goats: a 3-way vaccine called CDT; and an 8-way with the trade name Covexin—8. CDT protects healthy sheep and goats against *clostridium perfringins* types C and D (overeating disease) and *clostridium tetani* (tetanus). Covexin-8 protects against these same diseases, plus several additional clostridial diseases, including blackleg. The 3-way vaccine is probably all that's needed on most sheep and goat farms.

Pregnant ewes and does should be vaccinated with the CDT (toxoid) during their last month of pregnancy, but at least two weeks before they are due to lamb/kid. First time moms should be vaccinated twice in late pregnancy, 3 and 6 weeks before parturition. Rams, bucks, and wethers should receive an annual booster for CDT.

Lambs and kids will receive passive, temporary immunity to CDT when they consume colostrum. This immunity will start to wane after about 6 weeks. Thus, lambs and kids from vaccinated dams should receive their first CDT vaccination by the time they are 6-8 weeks of age, followed by a booster 3-4 weeks later.

Lambs and kids from unvaccinated dams should receive their first CDT vaccination when they are 3-4 weeks of age, followed

by a booster 3-4 weeks later. Earlier vaccinations may not be effective, due to many factors, including the immature immune system of young lamb and kids.

The tetanus antitoxin should be administered at the time of docking, castrating and disbudding, as lambs and kids from unvaccinated dams will lack protection (from tetanus). An antitoxin provides immediate, short-term immunity, whereas the toxoid provides longer—lasting immunity, but takes time and a second shot to complete the immune process.

A pre-lambing vaccination is the only way to protect lambs and kids from type C, though the antitoxin could be administered in the event of a disease outbreak. Purchased feeder lambs and kids should be vaccinated twice for clostridium perfringins type D ("classic" overeating disease). You should vaccinate any animal's whose vaccination status is unknown.

The CDT vaccine is administered subcutaneously (under the skin) by pulling up a handful of skin to make a "tent," and sliding the needle into the base of the tent and pressing the plunger. Subcutaneously injections can be given high in the neck, in the axilla (arm pit) region, or over the ribs. Sometimes, an abscess will develop at the injection site, especially for market lambs and goats and show animals.

All vaccines should be stored and used according to the label directions and needles should be changed frequently. Ideally, a clean needle should be used for each animal. An 18– or 20-gauge needle is suitable for CDT vaccinations.

Some experts believe that CDT vaccinations are not as effective in goats as sheep.

2023 Maryland Small Ruminant Page

The Board of Directors is looking for one individual that are interested in serving on the board for the East District. Requirements to serve are current member of NS&GP, able to attend a monthly board meetings, willing to help plan educational programs for other members and help promote the Sheep and Goat industry in Nebraska. Email short bio to ne.sheep.goat@gmail.com

Dr. Brian Vander ley, DVM, from the Great Plains Veterinary Educational Service recorded this great informative talk about Pregnancy Toxemia. This can happen really fast in ewes or does carrying multiples. Stress is also a trigger for this. Be on the look out with all our crazy weather it can hit them fast.



LET'S GROW

Have you checked out the ASI Let's Grow Webinars? The webinars cover productions and management topics important to sheep producers. You can view all the webinars at sheepusa.org/growourflock-resources-educationalwebinars

These webinars help keep producers informed on industry technology, innovations and systems for improving production efficiencies to support sustainability. ASI hosts webinars at least three to four times a years.

Eastern Lambing and Kidding Clinic

2023 Eastern Lambing and Kidding School was held January 21 starting with a tour of Pickinpaugh Livestock located in Lincoln Nebraska with around 34 people attending. We had a tour of the facilities discussed feeding, lambing and health procedures. The group spent approximately 2.5 hours touring the facilities and hearing from Tyler Pickinpaugh talking about their facilities, herd health, lambing kits and nutrition. He also discussed creep feeding kids, parasite control hay management.

From their farm we traveled to Otoe County Fair-grounds and had a lamb stew for lunch followed by educational presentations. Ryan Hassebrook local sheep producer discussed nutrition for the ewe and lambs. Dr. Becky Funk DVM of Great Plains Veterinary Center discussed a program emphasizing colostrum and milk replacer for newborn lambs and kids. She also discussed assisting the ewe at lambing time.

Randy Saner Livestock Extension Educator discussed Lambing and Kidding Disease Issues. After the seminar section we headed to Black Family Livestock at Burchard Nebraska where they discussed their meat goat operation, facilities, nutrition, health and parasite management program. They are a commercial meat goat operation with around 200 does.



Black Family Livestock

Lambing/Kidding Tool Bucket

With lambing and kidding time upon us or close at hand, here is a list of items to put in your lambing/kidding bucket. It is always a good idea to keep some if not all of these things on hand. We all know when you go out there and only see a nose or just front feet it is sometime hard to identify what you got going on in there. Please use the picture on the right as a reference. These are some of the different presentations possible. (But we know there is always that one time that it doesn't look or feel like any of those pictures.) If you have something not on our list but have found it works really well let us know and we can share with other producers.

Tool Bucket

OB sleeves and lube thermometer ear tags and tagger vaginal retainer lamb warming box heat lamps scissors docking and castration tools stomach tube with 60 cc syringe bottle with lamb nipples colostrum milk replacer 18 and 20 gauge needles (1 inch) 3, 6, and 12 cc syringes 7% iodine solution

electrolytes **Drugs to Have on Hand**

Excede (Antibiotic)

NuFlor

Penicillin

Dexamethasone

Dewormer (check efficacy)

Propylene Glycol

Electrolytes

Calcium Solution

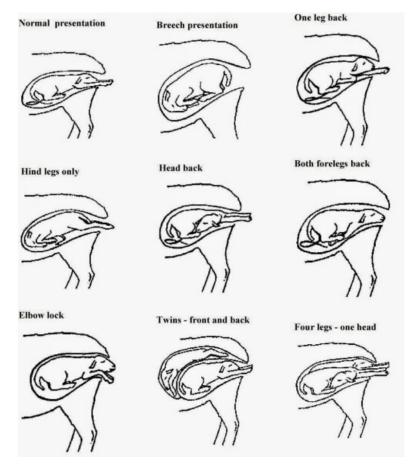
injectable BoSe

B12

Tetanus antitoxin

Banamine

IV tube and bag (IV saline)







NSGP Producers Directory

Do you have lambs/goats for sale? Do you sell breeding stock or have a service to provide to others? Do you sell directly to consumers? We want to get your name out there and promote your business. We are going to work hard this year to build a directory that will be posted on our website and in our newsletter that will provide buyers and consumers a list of where they can purchase local lamb/goat, sheep and goat services, and quality breeding stock. *Please remember, if you are selling lambs or goats as meat (not sold live prior to slaughter) they must be butchered at a state or federally inspected plant.

	Name:					
	Operation Name:					
	Phone Number:					
	Email:					
	Location:					
	What do you sell?					
	Whole lambs/goats					
	Half lambs/goats					
	Individual cuts					
	Mutton					
	Breeding stock Breed:					
	Show lambs/goats					
	Other Please explain:					
Do you have any special statement with your lambs/goats?						
	All natural					
	Grass Fed					
	Organic					
	Other:					
	Please return to NSGP:					
	Melissa Nicholson					
	308-386-8378 Ne sheen goat@gmail.com					
	Ne sneed yoahwyniau com					

P.O. Box 1066—Chadron, NE 69337

This is a free service for all members. Non-member there will be a \$25 annual listing fee.

Goat Curry

Ingredients:

1/2 cup soy sauceCurry: 1/2 cup oil1/4 cup curry powder4 cups coconut milk1/4 cup chopped garlic2 cups chopped onions

2 tablespoons chopped fresh basil 1 cup chopped bell peppers

1 tablespoon crushed red pepper 1/2 cup chopped carrots

1 teaspoon dried oregano 1/4 cup chopped green onion

1 teaspoon ground black pepper 4 bay leaves

2 pounds goat meat, cut into 2-inch Rice or rice and peas, for serving1/4 lbs.

goat meat,



Directions:

For the marinade: Mix the soy sauce, curry powder, garlic, basil, crushed pepper, oregano and black pepper in a large bowl. Add the goat to the bowl and marinate overnight.

For the curry: Remove the goat from the mari-

nade. Heat the oil in a large pan and add the goat. Turn the heat to medium and sear the goat until brown, about 15 minutes. Add the coconut milk and 4 cups water. Cover and cook, about 2 hours.

Add the onions, bell peppers, carrots, green onions and bay leaves and simmer, about 1 hour. Serve with rice or rice and peas.

NSGP Producers Directory

Pigroco

Dan Stelik

Goats

Wood Chuck Hills Kevin & Kendell Brichacek Linwood, NE 402-615-1290 or 402-750-1639 lvfd71@gmail.com

Boer Goats

Breeding & show stock

Heidi Cuny Gordon, NE 415-279-0185 heidimd@yahoo.com Lamb and goat meat All Natural –Grass Fed Regenerative Ag

Forty Creek Acres
Sara Nichols
Eddyville, NE
308-340-4880
fortycreekacres@gmail.com
Commercial & Registered Boer
and Registered Alpine Goats
Breeding and show stock
Hoof Trimming Services

Sheep

Feldmann Farms
Bradley Feldmann
Meadow Grove, NE
402-750-1537
bdfeldmann@telebeep.com
SAMM & Ramouillet/G-link
cross

Littlefield Family Farms
Michael & Bryan Littlefield
Surprise, NE
402-526-2240, 715-417-1525 or
402-270-2928
michaelrlittlefield@yahoo.com
Columbia

Breeding Stock Sheep, Goat Llama & Alpaca Shearing

Circle M Targhees
Georg Mann
Hayes Center, NE
715-533-0249
gjmann47@gmail.com
Targhee
Great genetics and awesome
Fleeces

Raising Targhee for 55 yrs Lamb meat, breeding & show stock

Curtis and Dorchester, NE
785-275-1152
dstehlik2@unl.edu
Dorset, Dorset/Suffolk F1 Crossbred
Individual cuts of lamb, Breeding stock, show lambs commercial market lambs—All natural/antibiotic free
Accelerated Laming Program

Bluff Valley Farms
Kenneth & Mary Grace Thiltges
Rulo, NE
402-245-5460
bluffvalleyfarm@sentco.net
Polypay ewes—Xbred lambs
Individual cut of Lamb—USDA
inspected.

Double M
Mike & Fran Wallace
Nelson, NE
402-984-4837
St. Dorpanov
Ewe Lambs available
Old Barn Farm

John Wagoner Phillips, NE 308-379-4898 mobydick51@msn.com Purebred Suffolk

<u>Both</u>

M/N Boer Goat & Sheep Connie Moore & Bronc & Melissa Nicholson Chadron, NE 970-629-2689 or 308-386-8378 crmoor4@gmail.com Whole lamb/goat & Breeding stock—All natural Grass Feed Rambouillet, Southdown, Boer, Spanish and Registered Alpine

Bottle Feeding Kids and Lambs

Many factors may require producers to bottle feed lambs and kids. For dairy goats, producers may opt to bottle feed as a biosecurity measure and to prevent damage to the does' udders by nursing kids. As a result, many dairy goat kids are sold as bottle babies. Anyone purchasing dairy breed kids should be prepared to bottle feed them.

Orphaned kids and lambs will need to be bottle fed if they are not grafted on to another dam. Other reasons for bottle feeding are rejected kids and lambs, litters that are too large for the dam to feed, and weak or sick lambs and kids. For animals with large litters, the babies may be able to stay with the dam and a few bottles given to the smaller babies each day. Does and ewes with large litters may be able to feed them for the first week or so, but as the demand for milk by their offspring increases, one of the lambs or kids may start to fall behind. Babies from large litters that need supplementing may stand hunched and get chilled. A chilled lamb or kid may lose its nursing reflex. In this situation, it will need to be tube fed until it is able to nurse. Hungry lambs or kids will generally accept a bottle; however, it may be harder to get an older a lamb or kid to accept a bottle the first time it is offered.

If a doe or ewe has a large litter and one or two must be pulled to bottle feed, producers need to consider a few factors. Often it is appropriate to pull and bottle feed the odd-sized lamb or kid. These may be a lot smaller or larger than the rest of the litter. Small lambs and kids may need extra help and benefit from being put on a bottle. Kids and lambs that are much larger than their littermates may overpower the rest of the litter. Lambs and kids matched closely in size should usually be left on their dam. If all lambs and kids are close in size, personal preferences may determine which are pulled for bottle feeding. For example, if one is being kept as a replacement female and having tame animals is desired, then that lamb or kid may be chosen.

Starting Lambs and Kids on the Bottle Usually Requires Patience

It is advisable to keep a few different types of teats and nipples on hand. Pritchard teats are a popular choice because they are designed for lambs and kids. These teats will fit on a soda bottle or you can purchase bottles specifically for the purpose. The flow on Pritchard teats is determined by how the tip is cut. They are sold with a tip that is sealed. The tip can be cut with slits forming an "X". This allows the tip to seal so that milk does not leak out if a lamb or kid is not actively nursing. The tip can also be snipped off. The tip gets wider as it gets closer to the teat. Cutting off the whole tip will result in faster flow.

Human baby bottle nipples may work better for some newborns. The milk flow will be slower and the wider nipple is easier for some newborns to grasp with their tongues. These nipples may be closer to the nipples on bucket feeders. If the lambs or kids are going to be transitioned onto a lambar or bucket-type feeder, it may be easier to transition from human baby bottle nipples. A hungry lamb or kid should accept a bottle once it gets a taste of the milk. When introducing a newborn lamb or kid to a bottle, make sure that its tongue is wrapped around the teat. Some newborns have difficulty with this and will push their tongue out the side of their mouths. For newborns, it may be easier to introduce them to the bottle while they are seated in your lap.

Older lambs and kids being introduced to the bottle will usually only accept it while standing since that is how they learned to nurse from their dams. It may take quite a bit more patience to get an older lamb or kid to accept a bottle for the first time. It may be easier in small flocks where the adult animals are friendlier and have a smaller flight zone. Adding a small drop of honey to the teat may help.

Older orphans also may refuse a bottle if they do not like the taste, especially when offering milk replacer. If an orphan seems hungry and nurses from the bottle but refuses after a few swallows, try offering whole milk. Weak or hungry lambs and kids that refuse a bottle will need to be tube fed. Never drench or syringe feed lambs or kids, including dribbling or squirting milk into the lamb's or kid's mouth. This may cause them to aspirate it into their lungs. Hypothermic lambs and kids need to be warmed to normal body temperature prior to feeding.

Three Accepted Artificial Rearing Methods for Lambs and Kids

Bottle feeding, the most familiar artificial rearing method, is when a limited amount of milk is fed on a schedule. The amount of milk given at each feeding is based on the animal's weight, while the number of daily feedings depends on the animal's age. This is the only method where it is acceptable to feed warm milk. Bottle racks can be purchased or made to make bottle feeding multiple animals at the same time easier. Monitor animals to ensure that aggressive and older lambs and kids don't finish their bottles and then steal from others.

One of the most common methods for larger small-ruminant operations is bucket feeding. Small ruminant bucket feeding refers to lambs and kids drinking milk from a system where nipples are attached to the bucket. This is also referred to as a lambar and it provides constant access to milk. This is a type of free choice or ad lib feeding. This method is preferred by many producers because it more closely mimics how lambs and kids eat from their dams—small quantities of milk several times a day.

Milk must be kept cold so that it does not spoil and the babies do not overeat. There are several types of bucket feeders available from different manufacturers. Some have nipples placed at the bottom of the bucket and others have nipples near the top of the bucket with tubes that run to the bottom of the bucket. Buckets with tubes may be more difficult to keep clean. With this method, lambs or kids are fed milk with a bottle until they are strong enough to be trained to eat from the lambar or bucket feeder.

Pan feeding is another lesser-known type of limit feeding for lambs and kids. Lambs or kids are given a set amount of milk, but instead of using a bottle, they drink it from a pan or bucket. This system may work better for lambs and kids that are orphaned at older ages and refuse a bottle but are not quite old or large enough to be weaned onto hay and feed only. While the pan option makes cleaning equipment easier, drinking from a pan or pail is not optimal. When lambs and kids nurse from teats and nipples, the position of their heads and necks causes the esophageal groove to close and allows milk to bypass the rumen where it would undergo fermentation and go directly to the abomasum. Lambs and kids raised by pan feeding may show poor growth.

Saving a Weak Baby Lamb or Kid

Spring lambing and kidding season brings a mix of excitement and trepidation on most farms. Even though I've helped well over 100 kids, it's still a little nerve-wracking each year, anticipating all the things that could go wrong and wondering if I'll be prepared to save a weak baby kid.

The good news is that if you're well prepared and your does and ewes are in good health, things usually go pretty well, and you might not have to do much than help dry off the babies and give mom some treats and love. But knowing the problems to look for and what to do if they arise can make the difference between life and death for a weak goat kid or lamb.

Beyond any major genetic or physical abnormalities, the three main lifethreatening issues to be prepared for in a newborn include:

- Kid/lamb can't feed itself
- 2. Dam can't feed her kids
- 3. Kid/lamb is hypothermic

How soon should a baby goat or lamb nurse after being born? All three of these issues are related to one central and critical fact: the newborn MUST have colostrum within the first hours of life to survive. There are different reasons why a lamb/kid may not get this much-needed elixir of life, but without it, chances of survival are greatly reduced so your prompt attention and intervention may be needed.

Here's a look at some of these three common problems, along with several possible interventions you can try before calling the Vet (or until the vet arrives):

PROBLEM: Kid/Lamb is too weak to get up or has a weak sucking response.

Occasionally a kid/lamb just had a rough delivery, has a slight deformity like contracted tendons that keep it from standing right away, or is slightly underdeveloped and lacking a strong sucking response. While this newborn can't stand and may appear "floppy," it does not have floppy kid syndrome, which doesn't present until three to 10 days after birth and will be discussed later in this article.

POSSIBLE INTERVENTIONS:

- You may need to help the kid/lamb get to its feet by propping it up and holding it to its mother's teat for the first few sucks.
- You may need to express some of the

- mother's colostrum into a bottle with a Pritchard nipple and feed a few ounces to the baby.
- You can try dripping or rubbing some colostrum, vitamin solution, corn syrup or even coffee on its tongue and gums to help give it a little energy boost.
- A weak baby goat or lamb may benefit from a thiamine injection.
- If all else fails, or the baby won't eat, you or your veterinarian may need to administer the initial colostrum through a stomach tube.

PROBLEM: Dam unable to feed the kid or lamb.

There are times when a dam delivers her lambs or kids before her colostrum has come in, and she doesn't have an initial source o food for her own babies. On occasion, a dam may reject her kid or lamb for one reason of another. Or there may be too much competition among multiples, and the smallest, weakest kid/lamb loses out. There are also ties when a dam has had such a difficult delivery that she is too sick and weak, or even worse has died and cannot fed her baby. Whatever the reason, it's going to be up to you to find a source of colostrum quickly for this kid/lamb to ensure its survival.

POSSIBLE INTERVENTIONS:

- If you have multiple does kidding simultaneously, you may be able to express some colostrum from another dam that has just delivered and feed it to this kid.
- If you had another doe that gave birth earlier in the season or even last season, you could express some of her colostrum and save it to use in a situation like this. You can freeze it in small, 1-4 oz. portions and then, when needed, gently thaw it to just above your own body temperature and feed it to the newborn in a bottle.
- You can mix up some powdered colostrum replacer with warm water an feed it to the newborn. Be sure to feed "kid colostrum replacer" (not calf colostrum and not regular milk replacer).

PROBLEM: Hypothermia

If a baby is born on a very cold or wet day or night, or if the kid is underdeveloped and having a hard time regulating its body temperature, hypothermia can set in quickly. An otherwise healthy kid/ lamb whose body temperature drops too low will b unable to eat or even absorb nutrients until tis body returns to a normal temperature rang. Before trying to fed a cold and lethargic kid/lamb, you will need to warm it up sufficiently.

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS:

- The first thing to try is to dry off the kid/lamb and hold it close to your body. This will at least minimize heat loss and, for a slightly chilled newborn, may raise the body temperature enough to get it to start eating.
- If a weak baby is very cold, a quick way to bring up body temperature is by submerging it in a hot water bath. If the baby is still wet, you can plunge it in a bucket of veery warm water, holding its head above the water, of course, and then dry it off once warmed. If the baby is already dried off but still very cold, you may want to place the body, up to the neck, in a large plastic bag and then submerge it into the bucket of very warm water, so the baby stays dry. This acts as a hot tub and can restore a baby goat/lamb temperature quite quickly.
- Another method to bring body temperature up is to place the baby in a box and use a hairdryer to warm the box quickly. A semi-airtight container such as a plastic tub with a hole cut into one side to stick the hairdryer through works well. You don't want the hot air blowing directly on the goat/lamb, so make sure the hole is near the top of the tub.
- Heat lamps and heating pads will also help warm a baby, but these both will take longer to raise body temperature and are more of a help in keeping a baby warm once you've raised a frigid body temperature back up to normal. They are both potentially dangerous fire hazards, and there is a risk of overheating or even burning baby or other goats/sheep in the area, so use with extreme caution.
- Once the baby's body temperature returns to normal, you can try feeding through one of the methods suggested above

By Kate Johnson Backyard Goats.

Cont. page 16

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Nebraska Does Well at NMMIW

Andrea Nisley

Saidi Ringenberg of Lexington was the 2023 Senior Division National Make It With Wool Winner and Emma Olson of Sargent was fourth runner-up in the Junior Division. The National Make It With Wool (MIWW) competition was held in conjunction with the American Sheep Industry Association Convention, January 19-21, in Fort Worth, Texas, according to Andrea Nisley, State MIWW director. The wool contest has been conducted for 75 years.

Saidi also received two other special awards, the Senior Division Exemplary Construction award and second place in the Creative Machine Embroidery category. As a national winner Saidi received a \$1,500 cash award, from the American Sheep Industry Women, \$250 cash award from Heidi Aleman Sorrano, subscription to Threads Magazine, wool fabrics, a sheep pelt, a MIWW garment bag and sash, and a trip to the 2024 National MIWW Contest.

For her entry, Saidi constructed and modeled a heather gray fitted princess-seamed coat with a high neck and flared skirt. To coordinate with the coat, she constructed a classic sleeveless plaid wool halter dress. Saidi is the daughter of Joel and Stephanie Ringenberg.

Emma Olson received Pendleton wool fabrics, wooden spool holder, Schmetz gift bag, Coats & Clarks thread assortment and sewing notions. For her entry, Emma constructed and modeled a plaid wool jumpsuit. She is the daughter of Pete and Kyla Olson.

The trip and contest were sponsored by the American Sheep Industry Women, American Sheep Industry Association, Nebraska Sheep and Goat Industry, and Nebraska Make It With Wool. The purpose of the Make It With Wool Contest is to promote the beauty and versatility of wool fabrics and yarns, to encourage personal creativity in sewing, to recognize creative skills and to develop life skills.

Contestants
must select,
construct, and
model their
own garments.
All entries must
be made with
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wool or wool
blend
(minimum 60
percent wool or
specialty wool
fiber) for each fashion
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Traditional Gyro Meat

Ingredients:

1/2 onion chopped

1 teaspoon ground cumin

1 pound ground lamb

1 teaspoon dried marjoram

1 pound ground beef

1 teaspoon ground dried rosemary

1 tablespoon minced garlic

1 teaspoon ground dried thyme

1 teaspoon dried oregano

1 teaspoon ground black pepper

¼ teaspoon sea salt



DIRECTIONS

- 1. Pulse onion in a food processor until finely chopped. Scoop onions onto the center of a towel, gather up the towel ends, and squeeze to remove liquid.
- 2. Combine onions, lamb, beef, garlic, oregano, cumin, marjoram, rosemary, thyme, pepper, and salt in a large bowl. Mix with your hands until well combined. Cover and refrigerate 1 to 2 hours to allow the flavors to blend.
- 3. Preheat the oven to 325 degrees F (165 degrees C).
- 4. Place the meat mixture into a food processor and pulse until finely chopped and the texture feels tacky, about 1 minute. Transfer to a 7x4-inch loaf pan, and pack down to make sure there are no air pockets.
- 5. Line a large roasting pan with a damp kitchen towel. Place the loaf pan in the center of the towel-lined roasting pan, and transfer it into the preheated oven. Carefully pour boiling water into the roasting pan until it comes halfway up the sides of the loaf pan.
- 6. Bake in the preheated oven until gyro meat is no longer pink in the center, about 45 minutes to 1 hour. An instant-read thermometer inserted into the center should read at least 160 degrees F (70 degrees C).
- 7. 7Pour off any accumulated fat, and allow to cool slightly before slicing thinly and serving.

Getting ready for lambing and kidding

What's happening during the last 4 to 6 weeks of pregnancy?

Seventy (70) percent of fetal growth occurs during the last 4 to 6 weeks of pregnancy. Most of the female's mammary (udder) growth is occurring during this period. At the same time, rumen capacity is decreasing. The result is the need for increased nutrition, usually a more nutrient-dense diet. Extra nutrition is needed to support fetal growth, especially if the female is carrying multiple fetuses. Extra feed is needed to support mammary development and ensure a plentiful milk supply. Proper nutrition will help to prevent the occurrence of pregnancy toxemia (ketosis) and milk fever. It will ensure the birth of strong, healthy offspring of moderate birth weight. Birth weight is highly correlated to lamb and kid survival, with low and high birth weight offspring usually experiencing the highest mortality.

Nutrition during late gestation

During late gestation, energy is the nutrient most likely to be deficient. The level of nutrients required will depend upon the age and weight of the pregnant female and her expected level of production, i.e. singles, twins, or triplets. To meet the increased energy needs during this period, it is usually necessary to feed concentrates (grain). In addition, if forage quality is low, it will be necessary to provide a supplemental source of protein and calcium

Examples of late gestation feed rations are:

- * 3.5 to 4 lbs. of medium to good quality hay plus 1.25 to 1.5 lbs. of concentrate.
- * 4 to 5 lbs. of medium quality hay or pasture equivalent plus 0.5 to 1 lb. of concentrate.
- * Limit the roughage intake of ewe lambs and doe kids and mature females carrying 3 or more fetuses and feed 1 lb. of grain per fetus.

It is important not to underfeed or overfeed pregnant females. Inadequate nutrition may result in pregnancy toxemia, small and weak lambs/kids, higher lamb/kid mortality, reduced colostrum quality and quantity, poor milk yield, and reduced wool production (in the offspring) via fewer secondary follicles. Fat females are more prone to pregnancy toxemia. They experience more dystocia (birthing difficulties). Overfeeding can result in oversized fetuses that the female cannot deliver on her own. It costs extra money to make ewes and does fat.

Feed bunk management

In addition to feeding the right ration, you must also practice good feed bunk management. All ewes and does should be able to eat at once. If there is inadequate feeder space, some animals, especially the small, young, old, and timid ones, will not get enough to eat. Pregnant ewe lambs and doe kids should be fed separately from mature females. Their nutritional requirements are higher because in addition to being pregnant, they are still growing. They may also have trouble competing for feeder space. You should never feed pregnant ewes or does on the ground. This is how diseases, especially abortions, are spread.

Selenium and Vitamin E

Selenium and vitamin E are critical nutrients during the late gestation period. Low levels of selenium (Se) have been associated with poor reproductive performance and retained placentas. Selenium is passed from the placenta to the fetus(es) during late gestation. Selenium supplementation will aid in the prevention of white muscle disease. Free choice mineral mixes usually provide adequate selenium to pregnant ewes and does. Be sure to feed mineral mixes that have been specifically formulated for sheep and/or goats. Flocks/herds with a history of selenium deficiency should add selenium to the grain mix. Free choice minerals do not always ensure adequate intake. Selenium may be provided via injections, but supplementation is cheaper and safer. There is a narrow range between selenium requirements and toxic levels.

Calcium Intake

You need to monitor the intake of calcium (Ca) during late gestation. The female's requirements for calcium virtually double during late gestation. Milk fever is caused by a low blood calcium level, which can be the result of inadequate intake of calcium or failure to immobilize calcium reserves. Excessive intake of calcium can also be a problem. It is recommended that you save your "best" hay for lactation, and feed a mixed (legume-grass) hay during late gestation. Grains, such as corn, barley, and oats, are poor sources of calcium. Forages are generally higher in calcium, especially legumes (alfalfa, clovers, lespedeza). Supplemental calcium can be provided through complete grain mixes or mineral supplements (dicalcium phosphate, bonemeal, and limestone). If low quality forage is fed, calcium should be supplemented through the grain ration. Free choice minerals do not always ensure adequate intake.

Vaccinate for CDT

Pregnant ewes and does should be vaccinated for clostridial diseases (usually clostridium perfringins type C & D and tetanus) approximately one month prior parturition. Vaccinated females will pass antibodies in their colostrum to their newborn lambs/kids. Females that have never been vaccinated or whose vaccination status is unknown will require two vaccinations at least 2 weeks a part. Males should be vaccinated at the same time, so they are not forgotten.

Worm control

The most important time evaluate the need to deworm a ewe or doe is prior to parturition. This is because pregnant and lactating ewes/does suffer a temporary loss in immunity (as a result of hormonal changes) that results in a "periparturient rise" in worm eggs.

Deworming with an effective anthelmintic will help the ewe/doe expel the worms and will reduce the exposure of newborn lambs and kids to worm larvae. It will reduce the worm burden when the ewes/does are turned out to pasture in the spring. Deworming can be done at the same time as CD-T vaccinations. An alternative to deworming the flock is to increase the level of protein in the diet. Protein supplementation has been shown to decrease fecal egg counts in peri-parturient ewes. Valbazen© should not be given to ewes during the first trimester of pregnancy.

Feed a Coccidiostat

It is a generally a good idea to feed a coccidiostat (Bovatec®, Rumensin®, or Deccox®) to ewes and/or does during late gestation. All sheep and goats have coccidia in their digestive systems. Feeding a coccidiostat will reduce the number of coccidia being shed into the lambing and kidding environment.

You should continue feeding the coccidiostat through weaning. In addition, there is evidence to suggest that feeding a rumensin during late gestation will aid in the prevention of abortions caused by Toxoplasma gondii, which is a coccidia organism harbored by domestic cats. Coccidiostats, especially rumensin, can be fatal to equines (horses, donkeys, mules).

Antibiotics

The use of antibiotics may aid in the prevention of abortions caused by Chlamydia (Enzootic/EAE) or Campylobacter (vibrio). Chlorotetracycline (aureomycin®) has been approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to feed to pregnant ewes at a rate of 80 mg per head per day to help prevent abortions. Alternatively, injections of antibiotics (e.g. LA-200) every 2 weeks during late gestation may help to prevent abortions.

Bottle Feeding Lambs/Kids

All Lambs and Kids Should be Given Colostrum as Soon as Possible after birth there are Several Options for Milk for Lambs and Kids
The best is fresh milk from the dam. The nutritional content of milk will change throughout the lactation cycle. More nutritious milk is produced
at the beginning of the cycle when the kids and lambs are young. Another option is stockpiled, frozen milk. Frozen milk can be thawed as needed. Dairy goats and dairy sheep can be valuable assets on the farm for stockpiling milk for later use. It is important to note that lambs have a
higher fat requirement than kids. One of the benefits of fresh milk is that there is no mixing involved.

Milk may separate when thawed if not frozen properly. To prevent milk from separating, it must be cooled quickly. Putting fresh milk in the refrigerator does not cool it quickly enough, so some producers put fresh milk directly in the freezer. If the milk separates when it is thawed, it must be mixed thoroughly prior to feeding to lambs or kids. Milk may be pasteurized for biosecurity reasons. There are different ways to pasteurize milk. It can be done with a pasteurizer, double boiler or on the stove top. To pasteurize milk, it must be heated to 165°F and held at that temperature for 15 seconds.

Lamb and Kid Milk replacer

Species-specific milk replacer is the best option for artificially rearing baby animals (Figures 8 and 9). When choosing a milk replacer, select a high-quality milk replacer made with milk proteins for the species being fed. It is important to carefully follow the directions when mixing the milk replacer. The manufacturer will recommend a temperature for the water used to mix the milk replacer. Using the proper water temperature will help ensure that the powder is thoroughly dissolved. There is usually a measuring cup with the milk replacer. Measure the powder carefully with the enclosed cup or weigh the powder if the directions indicate the required pounds or ounces.

It is also helpful to have the same person mix the milk each time since people may interpret mixing directions differently. If a minor mixing error occurs, it will be a consistent error and reduce the risk of digestive upset. Combining the powder and water in a jug may work better for thoroughly mixing than stirring with a spoon or whisk. One of the major benefits of milk replacer is that there is no risk of transmitting diseases such as Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis (CAE), Ovine Progressive Pneumonia (OPP) and Johne's disease.

You shouldn't feed calf or multi-species milk replacer to lambs or kids. The higher lactose may cause abomasal bloat. Some good milk replacers may be labeled for both lambs and kids; however, the mixing directions will be different to account for the higher fat requirement of lambs. An advantage of milk replacers is that they can be purchased with a coccidiostat already added into it. This is a good option for farms that have had problems with coccidia which are single-celled protozoa that can cause coccidiosis in lambs and kids. Lambs and kids become infected by ingesting oocytes and are most at risk from 1 month to 6 months of age. Infected animals may show poor growth, dull coats, diarrhea and/or anemia.

Whole cow's milk is an option. This can be obtained as waste milk from a dairy or purchased from the grocery store. To account for their higher fat requirement, extra fat or oil added should be added to the milk if it is being fed to lambs. As with milk replacers, it is important to mix the milk consistently if adding fat. When milk prices are low, store-bought milk may be cheaper than milk replacer.

Probiotics are good to keep on hand when bottle feeding. To prevent stomach upset, add the powder form to the milk if changes will be occurring to the feeding routine such as the quantity or type of milk. Adding powdered probiotics can help treat an upset stomach. Probiotics should never be used as insurance against sloppy mixing or feeding practices.

West Lambing & Kidding Clinic

2023 West Lambing and Kidding Clinic was held on January 28th virtually due to a blizzard that hit the area. We had 15 producers that joined us for this clinic. Dr. Alison Crane spoke to us on how to prepare for lambing and kidding, nutrition of the ewe and lambs, body conditions scoring and gave us some helpful insights at to vaccination protocols. We also had Patrick Gunn join us from Purina Nutrition. He explained the importance of a balanced ration and the importance of mineral in your herds diet.

Our last guest speakers were Donna Lembke and Teya Sterkl for 2T Livestock. They gave us some helpful insight to how to pickout show lambs/goats and how to prepare for show. They also talked about AI to improve your herd. Donna and Teya also talked about their operations and gave some helpful tips on what they do in their herd.

We spent the remaining time fielding questions in a producers discussion session.

Getting Ready for Lambing/Kidding cont.

Shearing

It is a good idea to shear fiber-producing ewes and does about a month before lambing and kidding. An alternative to shearing is crotching. Crotching is when you remove the wool around the udder and vulva. There are numerous advantages to shearing prior to lambing and kidding. Shorn ewes put less moisture into the air. Shorn ewes are less likely to lay on their lambs. Shearing results in a cleaner, drier environment for newborn lambs/kids. They are more likely to seek shelter in inclement weather. Shorn ewes take up less space in the barn and around feeders. Shearing before parturition results in much cleaner fleeces. However, shorn ewes/does will require more feed to compensate for heat loss due to shearing, especially during cold weather. They require adequate shelter.

Getting your supplies and equipment ready

Two weeks before your first ewes and/or does are due to lamb/kid, you should organize your supplies and set up your facilities. While the general rule of thumb is to have one lambing pen per ten females, you may need more if your lambing and kidding is tightly spaced. A lambing pen, also called a "jug," is a enclosure (4 x 5 ft. or 5 by 5 ft) where you put the dam and her offspring together for 1 to 3 days to encourage bonding and for close observation. Even with pasture lambing/kidding, you will want a few pens in case you have some problems.

At least 14 days ahead of time, you should bring your ewes or does to the location where they will be lambing or kidding. This will enable them to manufacture antibodies specific to the environment in which their offspring will be born. Lambing and kidding can occur in a well-bedded barn or on a clean pasture. The area should be dry and protected from drafts.

Upcoming Events for 2023

- Feb. 28 Wyoming Select Bred Ewe Sale CAM-PLEX in Gillette, Wyo. email alison@wyowool.com
- March 1-2 Missouri Shearing School Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Mo. forms.gle/BM37Vjtos5HDp3Kx5
- March 4 Washington State Sheep Producers Lambing School Martinez Lambing Camp in Mabton, Wash. www.wssp.org
- March 8 Small Ruminant Webinar Series: Preparation for a Successful Breeding Season Online Extension.WISC.edu/agriculture/farm-ready-research
- March 11 Michigan State University Sheep and Goats for Small Farms Day Online Events.anr.msu.edu/2023SmallRuminantsforSmallFarms/
- March 24-25 Ozark Highlands Sheep and Fiber Festival Glen Allen, Mo. www.mestameadows.com/fiber-festival
- March 27-29 ASI Spring Trip Washington, D.C. contact your state sheep association executive or Peter Orwick at peter@sheepusa.org
- March 31-April 2 Moffat County Sheep Shearing School Craig, Colo. Megan Stetson at megan.stetson@colostate.edu.
- April 3-7 Washington State Shearing School (Beginners) Grant County Fairgrounds in Moses Lake, Wash. https://extension.wsu.edu/grant/livestockanimal-science/washington-state-shearing-school/
- April 8 Washington State Shearing School (Advanced) Grant County Fairgrounds in Moses Lake, Wash. https://extension.wsu.edu/grant/livestockanimal-science/washington-state-shearing-school/
- April 12 Small Ruminant Webinar Series: Grilling and Cooking Lamb Online Extension.WISC.edu/agriculture/farm-ready-research
- April 12-16 Lambing Camp Bellingham, Wash. www.lydiasflock.com
- April 13-15 Shepherd's Cross Sheep Shearing School Claremore, Okla. www.shepherdscross.com
- April 14-15 National Dorper Show & Sale Duncan, Okla. www.dorpersheep.org
- April 28-29 Yellow Rose Fiber Fiesta Seguin, Texas www.yellowrosefiberfiesta.com
- May 19-20 Crazy Mountain Fiber Fest Big Timber, Mont. www.bigtimber.com/chamber-information/fiber-fest/
- May 31-June 4 Contemporary Handweavers of Texas Sugar Land, Texas www.weavetexas.org
- June 8-11 Estes Park Wool Market (& Workshops) Estes Park, Colo. www.estesparkeventscomplex.com/wool-market.html
- June 23-25 Black Sheep Gathering Albany, Ore. www.blacksheepgathering.org.
- June 23-25 Houston Fiber Fest Cypress, Texas

September 9 & 10, 2023—NS&GPA—Annual Conference and Meeting—Broken Bow

September 23 & 24, 2023—4S Goat Expo and Sale—North Platte, NE—s4goatexpo@yahoo.com

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Type of Operation	(Circle all that apply)					
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Goat Producer	Agribusiness	4-H/FFA member, Extension Educator				
Sheep Feeder	Trucker	Shearer				
Goat Feeder	Stock Buyer	Other				
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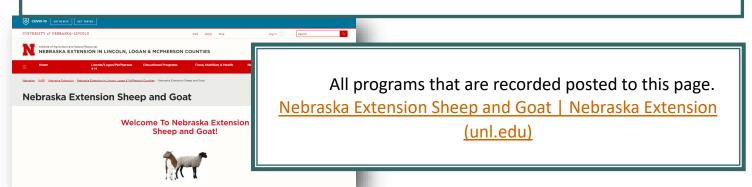
Saving a Weak Baby Goat or Lamb cont.

Floppy Kid Syndrome

While a weak baby goat may seem floppy at birth, a newborn is most likely not suffering from FKS. The main symptom of FKS in an otherwise normal and healthy kid in the sudden onset of extremely weak baby goat legs and a loss of all muscle tone around three to 10 days after it is born. Then kid will stop suckling a bottle or nursing well, although it will still be able to swallow. There will be no other symptoms of baby goat diseases, such as diarrhea, dehydration, or labored breathing which, if present, could indicate something other than FKS.

The causes of FKS are not known, but the effect is that the bloodstream becomes too acidic. While some kids will recover with no treatment at all, early detection and treatment will increase survival chances. For floppy kid syndrome in goats, treatment is very simple and inexpensive—baking soda! Mix 1/2 to one tsp. of baking soda with one cup of water and feed it orally if the baby can still suck. If not, it may need to be administered using a stomach tube. You should se improvement within a couple of hours when caught early and when FKS is the correct diagnosis. In more severe cases, the kid may need intravenous fluids and bicarbonate administration.

While most kids will arrive perfectly healthy and will need little assistance from you, knowing what to watch for and how to intervene quickly may enable you to save a weak baby goat or lamb. While these suggestions are a good starting point, they are not substitutions for expert medical advice or intervention, so don't hesitate to call your veterinarian for further consultation and recommendations.



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