

Ask the Vet with Dr Woodford

WE ARE THRILLED TO HAVE DR WOODFORD JOINING THE "ASK THE VET" COLUMN. DR GAUGLER AND DR WOODFORD ARE GOING TO TAKE TURNS WRITING FOR OUR MWGA MEMBERSHIP. THANK YOU TO BOTH OF THESE FANTASTIC VETERINARIANS FOR SHARING THEIR KNOWLEDGE.

Meet Becca:

Becca Woodford, DVM grew up in Three Forks MT on a commercial cow/calf operation. She graduated from Montana State University with a Bachelor's in Animal and Range Sciences with a focus on livestock management. After attending Montana State, Dr. Woodford attended Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine and graduated in 2019. Becca joined Crazy Mountain Vet Service in July of 2019. At CMVS Becca is a mixed animal practitioner and enjoys large animal emergency calls. Becca enjoys spending time with her husband and doing all the ranch duties, riding horses, leather working, and taste testing all the delectable food prepared by ranch wives.



Hi all, we are going to touch on a few things here: The new antibiotic feed directive, and drought management strategies.

What is new for antibiotic availability come June 2023? Nothing! These drugs will still be easily available. The only thing changing is that now these antimicrobials will be sold with a veterinarian's advice. The antimicrobials that this will affect are:

Penicillin (Penicillin G Procaine, Penicillin G benzathine)

- Injectable and Intramammary tubes

Oxytetracyclines

- Injectables: Liquamycin LA-200, Noromycin 300 LA, Biomycin-200, Agrimycin, etc
- Boluses: Terramycin scours tablets, OXY 500 Calf Boluses

Sulfa-based antibiotics (Sulfadimethoxine, Sulfamethazine)

- Injectables: Di-Methox 40%, SulfMed 40%
- Boluses: Albon, Sustain III Cattle & Calf Boluses, Supra Sulfa III Cattle and Calf Boluses

Tylosin

- Injectables: Tylan 50, Tylan 200

Cephapirin, cephapirin benzathine

- Intramammary tubes: ToDay and ToMORROW

Lincomycin

- Injectables: Lincomix 100, Lincomix 300, LincoMed 100, LincoMed 300

Gentamicin

- Injectables: Garasol, Gentamicin Piglet Injection

The goal of Guidance #263 is to combat overuse/misuse due to over-the-counter access. Animal health products have expiration dates and are sensitive to storage time and conditions. Furthermore, producers should not "stock-up" on these to avoid needing a prescription. Producers that already have a Veterinary Client Patient Relationship in place will not notice a difference. Producers that don't have a VCPR should seek out and establish one with a trusted veterinarian. A veterinarian will provide input on the best antibiotic selection, animal welfare, antimicrobial education and stewardship, and the livestock economics for important decision-making factors.

Some management strategies to consider during this drought are parasite control, early weaning, and mineral availability.

Pasture-range, is the most important component of a complete nutritional program for small ruminants. It's also the source of internal parasites, which paradoxically, pose the most serious limits to productivity. In drought years sheep must graze closer to the ground and nutritional input is marginal, parasite infestation may escalate. Parasitism can decrease nutrient absorption, cause anemia, and reduce immune system function making sheep more susceptible to diseases.

The goal for parasite control is to implement regular monitoring of anthelmintic efficacy and pasture rotation. A great way to assess the parasite load in the flock is to collect fresh fecals and take them to your veterinarian for assessment. Internal parasite control must be tailored to the individual ranch since management and forages vary from ranch to ranch.

With limited forage, it's especially important to match ewe nutrient requirements with available forage. Early weaning can greatly reduce pressure on the ewe. Weaning should start two weeks before the actual weaning process. Creep feeding the lambs before weaning will allow the lambs to adapt to solid feed. Early weaning can take place at 60 days of age.

Having a dry off plan for the ewe is also important to prevent mastitis. This can be started two weeks early too. Removing added grains or concentrates from the diet and switching the ewes to a lower quality hay, such as CRP hay. The abrupt drop in protein and energy levels will cause the ewe to decrease milk production.

Lastly, there are 15 essential minerals for sheep that are usually met under normal grazing conditions. Macro-minerals required in larger amounts include sodium, chloride, calcium, phosphorus, magnesium, potassium, and sulfur. Microminerals needed in smaller amounts are zinc, selenium, manganese, iodine, copper, cobalt, iron, and molybdenum.

Not all minerals are created equal. Most importantly, make sure that the mineral is formulated for sheep. Cattle mineral is too high in copper and will cause toxicity and death. Mineral that I recommend choosing, is loose mineral that is formulated for the challenges in your area. For example, a tie-up mineral present throughout the state of MT is molybdenum. Molybdenum can tie-up copper, reducing its absorption, increasing the requirements. The recommended guideline for copper is 7-10 mg/kg DM when molybdenum is below 1.0 mg/kg. Copper can be increased to 14-20mg/kg when molybdenum is above 3.0mg/kg.

Salt has an important regulatory function in the body. Deficiencies in salt can decrease feed and water intake, milk production, and lamb growth rate. Animals in search of salt or other minerals may be more likely to consume poisonous plants. It can be fed at 0.2 – 0.4 ounces per head per day as "free choice." I recommend feeding loose salt.

Drought greatly impacts forage quality, adding a mineral to your flock sooner than later can prevent mineral deficiencies.