### Questions to ask about feeding sheep and goats when feed supply is short

- **What is my current financial situation?** Can I buy feed or should I sell my animals?
- **How long will I have to feed the animals?** Should I buy good quality forage or grain? Do I have room to store hay? Presently, the price of grain is less than during the last 2-3 years but hay is also in short supply. Which is the most economical? Do I have an adequate supply of water for the animals?
- **Where can I go to get feed?** The drought covers much of Southwest Missouri but is less severe as your go north and east. Does a close-by neighbor have hay or grain for sale?

Before starting to feed grain to sheep and goats, feed good quality hay if it can be found. It is especially important to avoid sudden changes in the ration. Good quality hay or pasture should account for at least 30% of the feed and should be 100% of the diet, in many cases. If it is necessary to feed grain or use a different grain, mix the old grain with the new, gradually increasing the concentration over at least a week. Feeding processed grain to sheep and goats can increase the incidence of bloat and can cause animals to go off feed.

When purchasing feed, consider commodities as they may be less expensive per nutrient than conventional grain. One problem with commodities is that they may not be available in small quantities except as bagged feed at the local feed store. Good quality hay is usually the least expensive per nutrient to buy, but hay supplies are tight. Your local county extension office will have programs that allow you to compare the relative value of different feeds.
- **What are the feeding needs of the sheep and/or goats?** Are they in good body condition (flesh)? Don’t let your animals get too thin before supplementing feed.
- **If selling animals, ask: what are the prices of sheep and goats now?** Prices have held up better since Easter than most years. What will the prices be after the drought? What effect will reduced animal numbers have on my overall feeding costs?

**Continued on page 4**
Keeping the Farm Business Viable beyond Family Estate Inheritance
By: Mark Jenner

The farming community is breaking new ground as farm family parents strive to pass farm assets on to their children. Today, more farm children have grown up and moved away from the family farm. Well-intended family inheritance distributions between farm and off-farm children can irreversibly disrupt the working capital of the remaining farm business. The process of keeping the farm operating as a viable business is called ‘succession planning.’

Effective succession planning must happen early while the parents are still actively involved in the management of the farm. Unfortunately, too many inheritance questions are arising as estates are being settled and dispersed. This is too late, and there are better options. Two great options include the use of both family estate planning and farm succession planning.

Farms need a succession plan in addition to an estate plan. A farm succession plan elevates farm business needs and honors the family legacy by dovetailing seamlessly into critical, family estate plan. Succession plans keep the business goals at a similar level as the personal family estate objectives. It separates the business operation from the non-business family dynamics as much as possible.

Business planning, like a succession plan, is something we can influence. And fortunately farm business dynamics are much simpler than family dynamics. Providing open and transparent communication between farm management and staff is an expected outcome of basic, sound business planning. Writing down expectations in planning and legal documents provides clear communication in addition to being legally binding.

Ag business specialists, like me, provide classes for farmers on estate planning, farm business structure, leases, contracts, as well as beginning farmer challenges. Each of these is a tool for managing the transfer of family estate and business equity on to the next generation. There is a great opportunity to weave our existing knowledge of these related topics into a cohesive farm succession plan.

There are many things about farming that we can’t influence like increasing the demand of commodity prices and predicting Mother Nature. But University of Missouri Extension can help you structure your business in ways that lower routine tensions that may arise when your partner is also a parent or a sibling. I look forward to guiding area farm families through our classes. The classes will help prepare farm owners to work with their attorneys to develop business and succession plans that strengthen family partner and employee relations. These plans are meaningful inheritance tools that will help keep the farm business viable.

We are planning classes for the fall, winter, and spring. Look for information on farm estate and business planning in the coming months. If you have questions, call your local extension office and they can direct you to me or another specialist.

Disability Income Insurance: Do I Need It?
By: Janet LaFon

Accidents and illnesses happen — sometimes leaving people unable to work. If you don’t think it can happen to you, think again. Before reaching the age of 65, 43 percent of all people age 40 will have a disability that will last 90 days or more. Another startling fact is that working-age people are more likely to become disabled than to die. At age 22, a person is seven times more likely to become disabled for at least three months than to die. How are you going to pay day-to-day expenses if you’re unable to work?

You may have thought about Social Security. While Social Security may provide some protection for a disability, it is not automatically provided. Also, it can be hard to qualify. Social Security requires that you be totally disabled and have a disability that will last more than one year. These benefits do not begin until you have been disabled for a full five months. It can take three to five months or longer to process your application, so apply as soon as possible after you become disabled.

Other types of disability coverage include paid sick leave, Workers’ compensation insurance, group disability plans, some pension plans provide disability insurance and you can also buy disability income insurance by attaching a rider to a life insurance policy.

Continued on page 3………………….
Sodium vs. Salt- What is the difference?
By: Lydia Kaume

“Salt” and “sodium” do not have the same definition. However we often use them interchangeably. Salt, is chemically known as sodium chloride, and it is a crystal-like compound, naturally available and is used to flavor and preserve food. On the other hand, “sodium” is one of the chemical elements found in salt. Although most of the sodium we consume comes from salt, other food additives including, monosodium glutamate (MSG) sodium nitrite, and sodium bicarbonate (baking soda) are high in sodium and may contribute to total dietary sodium.

Why limit Sodium?
When we consume a high sodium diet we risk increasing our blood volume because sodium attracts water and draws water into the bloodstream. Over time, this action can increase your blood pressure. High blood pressure, commonly known as hypertension forces the heart to work harder and can damage blood vessels and organs increasing your risk of heart disease, kidney disease, and stroke.

Here is another reason, our blood pressure rises with age! Therefore, limiting how much sodium we consume grows more important with each year.

Good news!
Consuming less sodium can often help lower blood pressure and reduce your risk of developing the above medical conditions. To take control:

- Know how much sodium you may be consuming by using the Nutrition Fact Label
  5%DV (120 mg) or less of sodium per serving is low
  20%DV (480 mg) or more of sodium per serving is high
- Cook more from scratch: cooking from scratch allows you to control sodium and can often be cost saving.
- Ask questions: Full nutrition labeling is not required of restaurants therefore you may not learn how much sodium is in a food unless you ask.

Source: [http://www.fda.gov/Food/ResourcesForYou/Consumers/ucm315393.htm](http://www.fda.gov/Food/ResourcesForYou/Consumers/ucm315393.htm)

Managing Livestock Water Availability in Dry Weather
Adapted from article written by Mark Stewart

If dry weather conditions continue, water supplies and availability will be major concerns of cattle producers. Many livestock producers will be faced with the decisions of securing alternative sources of water (rural water, haul water, drill well, etc.) or reducing livestock numbers. Information needed to make water management decisions is outlined below.

To estimate the amount of water in ponds, use the following formula:

\[
\text{Gallons of water} = \text{Surface Acreage} \times \text{Ave. Depth in feet} \times \frac{325,829}{\text{Gallons of water}}
\]

Gallons of water = Surface Acreage x Ave. Depth in feet x 325,829 gals/acre ft.

Be conservative in your estimation of the average depth of the pond.

For pasture situations, you need one day's supply available at one time since the herd usually drinks at one time. If you are hauling water, you may need several stock tanks to hold one day's supply.

For example: Water needs per day for 50 beef cows is 1250 gallons.

Continued from page 2 “Disability Income…..”

Another option for providing protection is to purchase disability income insurance. It provides for loss of income when you can’t work due to illness or injury. Typically, these policies pay 50-70 percent of your before-tax income, but some replace as much as 80 percent of income. There are policies that pay a specific dollar amount each month instead of a percent of income. With those policies, it’s important to make sure they have cost-of-living adjustments to keep up with inflation.

If you buy the policy for yourself, the benefits are exempt from income tax. This would make it easier to get by on less income. It’s important to note, though, that if the insurance is provided and paid for by your employer, the benefits are taxable. Before buying disability income coverage, take a look at your total financial protection plan and consider the tax consequences. Also consider the other forms of income you may have available should a disability occur.

Continued from page 1…..

Culling of problem or lower producing animals will provide more feed per animal for those remaining and reduce the total costs of feeding when purchased feed prices are likely to be high.
• What effect will my action plan have on my long-term viability? Should I see my bank manager now? What are the tax implications when selling livestock? Will animals be purchased when the drought is over? Will I have money to buy animals?

The plan for a drought does not have to be implemented all at once and should be flexible to allow for chances in circumstances. It may rain tomorrow.

Another option is to lease or loan your animals to a neighbor or relative; you may also consider taking your sheep or goats to an area where the drought is less prevalent. Still have room available. Must register by May 27th. Topics discussed: Grazing Management, Grazers Arithmetic, Forage Basics, Soil Resources, Topography and Pasture Fertility, Fencing Equipment and Watering Systems, Weed ID. Day 2 will be traveling by vans to three farms in McDonald County to look at their farming operational setups.

This course meets requirements for DSP-3 cost share grazing practices
This course is sponsored by:
University of Missouri Extension
NRCS National Resources Conservation Service
Newton & McDonald County SWCD’s Crowder College.
For more information contact 417-223-4775.

High Seed Yields Depend on Two Management Practices
By: Jill Scheidt

High seed yields depend on two management practices: clipping soon after the seed stalks are mature or a seed crop removed and applying nitrogen during the very late fall or winter. Stubble should be clipped to a height of three to four inches as soon as possible after harvesting. Failure to clip the stubble can decrease next year’s seed crop up to 30 percent.

Removing the residue is necessary for the new tiller development. New tillers initiated during late summer and fall, require direct sunlight. Tillers that survive the winter produce seed; tillers that initiate in the spring, but do not go through the winter will not.

While summer clipping determines the number of tillers and seed stalks for the next seed crop, proper nitrogen fertilization determines the number of seeds in the seed heads. If used only for seed, fescue should be top-dressed with 70 to 100 pounds of nitrogen during December or January. Calculating the proper amount of nitrogen for a seed crop is often complicated by using late summer (Aug. 1) nitrogen to encourage fall growth for winter grazing. Additional nitrogen should be applied in December or January for seed production, but the amount will depend on how much was applied in the late summer or early fall (August and September), amount of vegetative fall growth, grazing intensity, amount of clover present, rainfall before freezing, etc.

If no nitrogen was applied in the fall, 70 to 100 pounds should be top-dressed during the winter; if 50 to 60 pounds was applied in the fall, use 40 to 60 pounds in the winter; if 80 to 100 pounds was applied in the fall, then an additional 30 to 40 pounds put on in the winter may be sufficient. No more than 120 pounds of nitrogen should be applied per year.

Grazing cattle during the fall and winter can be difficult for seed production because new tillers are developing. Keep grazing light in August, September, and October; but can be increased in November. Remove livestock before March 15 in Southern Missouri and April 1 in North Missouri.

Fescue seed may be harvested by direct combining or windrowed and then combined. If the acreage of fescue seed to be harvested is small (combined in 1 or 2 days) and a combine is available without delay, then direct combining is a feasible method of harvesting. Combining should begin when 5 to 15 percent of the seeds are immature. Many of the late heads will still be immature at this time. Harvesting with more than 20 percent immature seed usually results in low yields, excessive seed moisture which will cause heating in storing, weak seed vigor and low germination. If the amount of seed acreage is large or delays are expected in obtaining harvesting equipment, the best method is windrowing and curing the seed then combining. Windrowing should be started when the straw in the head is yellowing. Occasionally a seed will shatter from the earliest maturing heads in the field when the stem is tapped below the head. The fescue should be combined when the windrows are thoroughly dry, 3 to 10 days depending on weather conditions.

Barton County Annual Wheat Tour, Thursday, June 5, 6 PM at the David Sheat Farm (directions: East of Lamar (approx. 4 miles) to State Hwy A, North on Hwy A 1 mile, then East on 10th Rd 3/4 mile, plots on the North side. Peter Scharf, MU State Fertility Specialist will be the guest speaker. Ice cream and cookies to follow! Call 417-682-3579 for more information.
Black vultures could cause trouble for livestock producers
By: Mike Peterson, MDC Private Land Conservationist for Barry, Newton and McDonald Counties

Black Vultures have been a problem in the United States, particularly in the Southeast for many years. Now, over the last 5 years or so black vultures are becoming an increasing problem in southern Missouri.
Black vultures are historically known for attacking young, defenseless animals such as newborn calves, lambs, kids (young goats), and pigs. An attack is usually fatal, but it is difficult to determine if the animals are alive or stillborn when attacked, unless you see it first-hand.

It is first important to distinguish between the two different types of vultures common to the area – the turkey vulture and the black vulture. Turkey vultures are large, dark-brown birds that have a red head, long tail feathers and a wingspan that can be up to 6 feet. Black vultures have a grayish black head, a black body, white splotches along the edges of their wings and short tail feathers. The vulture’s flight pattern is also different. Turkey vultures flap their wings a few times and glide, holding their wings in a raised “V” position. Black vultures hold their wings flat and flap them constantly while occasionally gliding.

Also, the vultures eating habits are not the same either. Turkey vultures eat dead animals. Black vultures eat carrion (dead or decaying animals), but are also known to attack and kill live animals.

Black Vulture Control Methods
Vultures are a protected species under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and are managed by the federal government’s Department of Interior. They can only be killed after obtaining a Migratory Bird Depredation Permit from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It is against the law to shoot black vultures threatening harm to livestock without a permit.

Harassment Vultures can be harassed by pyrotechnics, rifles, shotguns, sirens, etc. without a federal permit. These are often a short-term benefit only, as they will return within a few hours (such as in your pasture). Also, harassment of vultures at their roost site should begin at dark when they begin to roost and that it might take several (up to seven) consecutive nights before the birds relocate. You still cannot kill or wound them without a permit. If using a firearm, contact your Conservation Agent first so there is no misunderstanding.

Cultural Removal of food sources, such as dead livestock and road-killed animals, reduces food availability and could lessen the likelihood of vultures being attracted to an area. Depredation can be prevented by locating birthing animals in sheds or buildings, or by using paddocks close to human activity.

Effigies Dispersal from the roost site is often best accomplished by suspending a black vulture carcass (permit required) or a taxidermic effigy of a vulture in the roost. As long as the effigy remains in place the roost will not reform. Farmers looking to obtain a depredation permit ($100) should contact the USDA/APHIS in Columbia, Missouri at 573/449-3033. They will help you with the process.