Browser's Bulletin in the



June 2020

Browser's Bulletin 45:

Record Keeping

This month, I have been asked an excellent question which has really got me thinking. The question was about what record-keeping software or Apps are available to keep track of your livestock records? There are so many out there, but I didn't know what ones were recommended.

Initially you need to establish your enterprise goal. Do you have a few pet goats, goats for your own self consumption or are you a part of a commercial enterprise? Either way, it is still important to maintain good records. With good accurate records you can make educated decisions on the pedigree and performance of your future herd.

Any producer who is a Livestock Production Assurance (LPA) - accredited producer needs to maintain records that demonstrate compliance with LPA requirements. It is a part of the system used by the red meat industry to meet the stringent requirements of our domestic and export markets. LPA accreditation is your pledge that the meat from your farm has been produced safely and ethically and you have the farm records to back this up. The LPA booklet contains templates which can be used to keep records. https://www.mla.com.au/globalassets/mla-corporate/meat-safety-and-traceability/documents/livestock-production-assurance/record-keeping/22763-lpa-farm-records-book web links.pdf

Other Important records include:

- Animal identification
- Mating dates
- Births & date
- Health
- Problems
- Treatments, With Holding Periods
- FAMACHA Scores
- Faecal Egg Counts
- Pregnancy Percentage of the herd
- Kidding percentage
- Kidding loss + deaths as a percentage
- Kids birth weights
- Weight gain to weaning
- Age at weaning
- Deaths
- Purchase records and dates
- Sale dates
- Records of offspring from doe+bucks
- Growth rates
- Carcass traits
- Genetic link to animals with faults
- Maternal behaviour scoring (1-5) 1 = excellent and 5= poor

Some smaller herds may choose to use a farm diary or file card system, or transfer information onto an excel spread sheet. Once

Figure 1: Example of Doe Record Sheet

your herd becomes bigger it may be easier to purchase livestock record- keeping software, but all appear to come at a cost. There is a plethora of systems out there, some that can be purchased through your rural supply store and others purchased online. I recommend if you are buying software that you purchase from

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Color :										
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an Australian company that understands our weather conditions, markets, traceability, biosecurity and contactable IT support. Software programs are able to store information, analyse data and generate production and financial summaries.

All properties vary and everyone has a different goal for their enterprise, so it may be easier to come up with your own Recording Template. On the internet you can find some great examples of 'Animal Record Keeping Templates' and some of these can be downloaded and used or altered to fit your purpose.

Goat Record Keeping Templates that may be useful for your farm include:

- Medical records/ Treatment Records
- Breeding Spreadsheets
- Kidding Records
- Buck progeny Records
- Management Calander

Record Keeping is a key component to managing an efficient farm. Records are needed for legal, financial, taxation purposes as well as analyzing the business, monitoring day-to-day activities and future planning. If you have any further questions on Recording Keeping then please drop me an email at kylie.greentree@lls.nsw.gov.au

Chemical Traceback to Goats in the Hunter

Last month I was contacted by the DPI State Residue Coordinator with regards to a trace of Closantel in a goat's liver from a rendering facility. As most of you are aware, there are very few drenches that are registered in goats so those that are not registered in goats must not be detected at all!

The purpose of meat and offal residue testing is to ensure that food commodities are safe for human consumption and exportation.

When a chemical is detected in meat and it exceeds the Maximum Residue Limit (MRL) then the State Residue Coordinator from the DPI will contact the Local Land Services to investigate what has occurred.

The MRL for Closantel in sheep is 5mg/kg in offal and 2mg/kg in meat. These goats had a level of 0.66mg/kg in the liver and would certainly have been an acceptable level in sheep but because it is not a registered product in goats then there cannot be any Closantel detected at all. The MRL for Closantel in goats is 0mg/kg.

The producer increased the drench dose rate on the bottle but unfortunately had not increased the With Holding Period (WHP) at the same time. Most of you are aware that goats metabolize drenches faster than sheep, and consequently **under veterinary prescription** it is advised to increase the dose rate and WHP. This **depends on the type of drench** and it is very important to have veterinary guidance and a prescription.

If you require the use of an unregistered drench in your goats, please contact your Private Veterinarian or District Veterinarian for recommendations or otherwise only use registered products prior to slaughter and ensure you have waited the WHP.

References:

https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/animals-and-livestock/beef-cattle/management/business-management/recordkeeping-mgt

© State of New South Wales through Local Land Services 2019. The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing November 2019. However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of Local Land Services or user's independent adviser. For updates go to www.lls.nsw.gov.au

