

A black and white goat kid is the central focus, standing in a lush green field dotted with small pink wildflowers. The kid has a white face with black markings around its eyes and a black patch on its chest. Its ears are large and alert. The background is a soft-focus field of similar vegetation.

Tennessee Small Ruminant Management Calendar 2026

Master Small Ruminant Producer



The Master Small Ruminant Producer program is designed to serve the educational needs of sheep and goat producers in Tennessee. The program gives sheep and goat producers a combination of classroom teaching and hands-on learning experiences. The learning sessions provide opportunities for producers to increase knowledge and skills needed to apply management practices necessary for profitability and sustainability of the sheep and goat industry. Educational sessions are delivered by your local UT-TSU Extension county agent.

Authors

Jessica H. Shanks
Gabbi Martin
Lew Strickland
Gary Bates



Cover Photo submitted by
Taylor Case Watson



Photo submitted by
Timothy Desmarais

Religious Holidays

Holiday	Religion	2026	2027
Eid al-Adha Festival of the Sacrifice	Islam	May 27	May 17
Muharram/Hijra Islamic New Year	Islam	June 16	June 6
Mawlid al-Nabi Prophet's Birthday	Islam	Aug 25	Aug 14
Ramadan (month of fasting)	Islam	Feb 18-Mar 19	Feb 8-Mar 9
Eid al-Fitr Festival of Fast Breaking	Islam	March 20	March 10
Pesach (Passover)	Judaism	April 1-9	April 21-29
Rosh Hashanah	Judaism	Sep 11-13	Oct 1-3
Hanukkah	Judaism	Dec 4-12	Dec 24-Jan 1
Western (Roman) Easter	Christianity	April 5	Mar 28
Eastern Orthodox (Greek) Easter	Christianity	April 12	May 2
Christmas (Western)	Christianity	Dec 25	Dec 25
Epiphany, Feast of the Nativity	Christianity	Jan 6	Jan 6
Chinese New Year		Feb 17	Feb 6
source: sheepandgoat.com		Reprinted from Susan Schoenian, University of Maryland Extension	



Photo submitted by **Jamie More**



Photo submitted by **Taylor Case Watson**

JANUARY

Setting Up Goals for the Year

It is important to have goals for your farm to determine procedures that best fit the goal of your operation.

Examples

- Increase herd numbers
- Improve genetics within herd
- Increase revenue in animals sold for market

Kidding and Lambing Season

- Pay attention to due dates and move animals into barn and/or individual pens accordingly.
- Examine females for signs of pregnancy toxemia or ketosis that is common in small ruminants later in gestation:
 - lethargy, fatigue, swollen legs, sweet smelling breath and urine, and inability to stand for long periods of time
- Take note of females in labor and be prepared to intervene if necessary.
 - Sheep — help after 15-30 minutes of no progress
 - Goats — help after 30 minutes to an hour of no progress

Fields and Forages

- Prepare for pasture renovation by purchasing seeds, inoculant, etc., and getting equipment ready.
- Inspect hay quality and inventory.
- Determine animal's forage needs and continue to ration and feed accordingly.
- Plan pasture utilization strategy (fencing, water, shelter).



Photo submitted by **Taylor Case Watson**

JANUARY 2026

UTSMALLRUMINANT.UTK.EDU

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	NOTES
28 Due 5/22	29 Due 5/23	30 Due 5/24	31 Due 5/25	1 Due 5/26	2 Due 5/27	3 Due 5/28	
4 Due 5/29	5 Due 5/30	6 Epiphany, Feast of the Nativity Due 5/31	7 Due 6/1	8 Due 6/2	9 Due 6/3	10 Due 6/4	
11 Due 6/5	12 Due 6/6	13 Due 6/7	14 Due 6/8	15 Due 6/9	16 Due 6/10	17 Due 6/11	
18 Due 6/12	19 Due 6/13	20 Due 6/14	21 Due 6/15	22 Due 6/16	23 Due 6/17	24 Due 6/18	
25 Due 6/19	26 Due 6/20	27 Due 6/21	28 Due 6/22	29 Due 6/23	30 Due 6/24	31 Due 6/25	



TN MASTER
SMALL RUMINANT
PRODUCER

Contact your local UT-TSU Extension agent for more information!

Program Contact: **Jessy Shanks**

Email: jharri50@tennessee.edu Phone: 865-974-4160

FEBRUARY

A photograph of a flock of sheep and a white dog in a snowy field. The sheep are brown and woolly, standing in a line. The dog is white and fluffy, standing in the foreground. The background shows a snowy landscape with trees and a fence.

Kidding and Lambing Season

- Record DOB, sex and BW accordingly along with any abnormalities noticed during and after labor.
- Allow adequate time for dam and new offspring to bond and visually confirm the offspring receiving colostrum and nursing.
- Insert ear tags and dock tails on lambs while they are young and manageable.
- If from a non-vaccinated dam lambs and kids need a CD&T shot at 1-3 weeks of age, and then two booster shots at 3-4 week intervals.
- If from a vaccinated dam lambs and kids need a CD&T shot at 1-2 months of age and a booster 3-4 weeks later.
- Provide adequate nutrition appropriate for lactating dams to build back body condition and continue lactating.
- If you are castrating males it is best to do this at a young age (around 1 week of age). Commercial producers may not want to castrate.

Fields and Forages

- Soil test pastures and hayfields.
- Add clovers to grass pastures and hayfields.

Barn Safety and Maintenance

- Keep barn aisles clear and trash free.
- Keep electrical cords clear and out of reach of livestock.
- Take note of heat lamps and ensure they are hung safely and reduce the risk of fire.
- Keep pens clean by removing wet bedding and adding dry bedding. Shavings and straw are great but need to be removed when wet and replaced.

Biosecurity

- Isolate all new animals for at least two weeks before introducing them to the herd and pastures.
- Be aware of all exposure or contact with other animals or pathogens when taken off farm.
- Avoid sharing feeding and watering equipment, stands and halters.
- Practice good personal hygiene and encourage all visitors to as well.



Photo submitted by **Janae N. Foss**

FEBRUARY 2026

UTSMALLRUMINANT.UTK.EDU

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	NOTES
25 Due 6/19	26 Due 6/20	27 Due 6/21	28 Due 6/22	29 Due 6/23	30 Due 6/24	31 Due 6/25	
1 Due 6/26	2 Due 6/27	3 Due 6/28	4 Due 6/29	5 Due 6/30	6 Due 7/1	7 Due 7/2	
8 Due 7/3	9 Due 7/4	10 Due 7/5	11 Due 7/6	12 Due 7/7	13 Due 7/8	14 Due 7/9	
15 Due 7/10	16 Due 7/11	17 Chinese New Year	18 Ramadan	19 Due 7/14	20 Due 7/15	21 Due 7/16	
22 Due 7/17	23 Due 7/18	24 Due 7/19	25 Due 7/20	26 Due 7/21	27 Due 7/22	28 Due 7/23	



TN MASTER
SMALL RUMINANT
PRODUCER

Contact your local UT-TSU Extension agent for more information!

Program Contact: [Jessy Shanks](#)

Email: jharri50@tennessee.edu Phone: 865-974-4160

MARCH

Considerations for Whole Farm

- Inspect and repair fences as needed.
- Clean out all used pens, stalls, lambing jugs, etc. regularly and between different animal use.
- Maintain clean and dry bedding at all times.
- Make sure all feeding and watering equipment is in clean, working condition.

Feeding

- If using a creep feeding system for kids and lambs, start gradually exposing them to the feed source.
- A complete, palatable feed designed for kid and lamb growth should be used free choice in the creep feeder. Feed with a coccidiostat is ideal to prevent coccidiosis in growing kids and lambs.
- Ensure that feeding equipment is in a clean, dry area that only young animals can access with enough room for multiple animals to eat at once.

Fields and Forages

- Prepare for the start of hay harvest by checking equipment and ordering supplies (twine, parts, etc.).
- Utilize recommended herbicides as needed.
- Fertilize pastures and hayfields.
- Plan up to 30 percent of pasture for warm season plants and bermudagrass in heavy use areas.

Pasture Maintenance

- Consider spot spraying weeds.
- Small ruminants are excellent nutrient recyclers; they take deep rooted plants and deposit nutrient rich manure.



Photo submitted by
Taylor Case Watson



MARCH 2026

UTSMALLRUMINANT.UTK.EDU

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	NOTES
1 Due 7/24	2 Due 7/25	3 Due 7/26	4 Due 7/27	5 Due 7/28	6 Due 7/29	7 Due 7/30	
8 Due 7/31	9 Due 8/1	10 Due 8/2	11 Due 8/3	12 Due 8/4	13 Due 8/5	14 Due 8/6	
15 Due 8/7	16 Due 8/8	17 Due 8/9	18 Due 8/10	19 Ramadan Ends Due 8/11	20 Eid al-Fitr Due 8/12	21 Due 8/13	
22 Due 8/14	23 Due 8/15	24 Due 8/16	25 Due 8/17	26 Due 8/18	27 Due 8/19	28 Due 8/20	
29 Due 8/21	30 Due 8/22	31 Due 8/23	1 Due 8/24	2 Due 8/25	3 Due 8/26	4 Due 8/27	



TN MASTER
SMALL RUMINANT
PRODUCER

Contact your local UT-TSU Extension agent for more information!

Program Contact: **Jessy Shanks**

Email: jharri50@tennessee.edu Phone: 865-974-4160

APRIL

A photograph of two black and white goats with floppy ears sitting in a field of dry grass. In the background, there is a wooden barn with metal railings. The word "APRIL" is written in large white letters in the top left corner.

Fields and Forages

- Start hay harvest to ensure quality; timing will vary by location and could start later.
- Take samples of harvested hay after baling to find the nutrient quality before using in a ration.
- Seed supplemental warm season grasses and forages as needed.
- Utilize a rotational grazing method for pasture preservation and parasite prevention.
- Monitor hay bale temperature prior to moving hay into your barn. Above 150 F should be considered a hazard.

Weaning

- Kids and lambs should receive their CD&T boosters by 30 days of age.
- As you approach weaning season at 8-12 weeks of age, prepare fences and barn set up for effective separation for weaning.
- Have a set protocol in place to reduce stress during this time.
- Pay attention to kid and lamb behavior for symptoms of illness and odd behavior.
- Young, newly weaned animals should be put on fresh, rested forage and pasture that is the best quality available.
- Be sure to maintain clean and dry bedding in pens for lambs and kids.

Herd Evaluation

- Evaluate herd and cull poor performers, dams and sires that do not match the goals of your program.
- Identify goals for kid and lamb crop (sell to market, sell/keep as replacement female or sire, sell as show prospect, etc.).
- Evaluate breeding animals to determine best route for recuperation to prepare for the next breeding season.



Photo submitted by **Holly Wood**

APRIL 2026

UTSMALLRUMINANT.UTK.EDU

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	NOTES
29 Due 8/21	30 Due 8/22	31 Due 8/23	1 Pesach (Passover) Due 8/24	2 Due 8/25	3 Western (Roman) Easter Due 8/26	4 Due 8/27	
5 Due 8/28	6 Due 8/29	7 Due 8/30	8 Due 8/31	9 Pesach Ends Due 9/1	10 Due 9/2	11 Due 9/3	
12 Eastern Orthodox (Greek) Easter Due 9/4	13 Due 9/5	14 Due 9/6	15 Due 9/7	16 Due 9/8	17 Due 9/9	18 Due 9/10	
19 Due 9/11	20 Due 9/12	21 Due 9/13	22 Due 9/14	23 Due 9/15	24 Due 9/16	25 Due 9/17	
26 Due 9/18	27 Due 9/19	28 Due 9/20	29 Due 9/21	30 Due 9/22	1 Due 9/23	2 Due 9/24	



TN MASTER
SMALL RUMINANT
PRODUCER

Contact your local UT-TSU Extension agent for more information!

Program Contact: [Jessy Shanks](#)

Email: jharri50@tennessee.edu Phone: 865-974-4160

MAY



Fields and Forages

- Continue harvesting hay.
- Continue seeding warm-season forages as needed.
- Monitor hay bale temperature prior to moving hay into your barn. Above 140-150 F should be considered a hazard.

Doe and Ewe Health

- Now that kids and lambs are weaned, it is time for females to get back into proper working condition.
- Make sure that all dams are up to date on deworming and other scheduled health protocols.
- Schedule shearing for wool sheep and check for Tennessee Sheep Producers Wool Pool information.

Kid and Lamb Health

- Coccidiosis is a common health concern in the spring from a combination of wet weather and fresh, green pasture. Symptoms include diarrhea, lethargy, dehydration, and anorexia.
- Use the FAMACHA scoring system and fecal egg counts to determine parasite loads.
- Confer with your vet to determine best route of prevention and treatment of parasites.



Photo submitted by **Holly Wood**

MAY 2026

UTSMALLRUMINANT.UTK.EDU

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	NOTES
26 Due 9/18	27 Due 9/19	28 Due 9/20	29 Due 9/21	30 Due 9/22	1 Due 9/23	2 Due 9/24	
3 Due 9/25	4 Due 9/26	5 Due 9/27	6 Due 9/28	7 Due 9/29	8 Due 9/30	9 Due 10/1	
10 Due 10/2	11 Due 10/3	12 Due 10/4	13 Due 10/5	14 Due 10/6	15 Due 10/7	16 Due 10/8	
17 Due 10/9	18 Due 10/10	19 Due 10/11	20 Due 10/12	21 Due 10/13	22 Due 10/14	23 Due 10/15	
24 Due 10/16 31 Due 10/23	25 Due 10/17	26 Due 10/18	27 Eid al-Adha Due 10/19	28 Due 10/20	29 Due 10/21	30 Due 10/22	



TN MASTER
SMALL RUMINANT
PRODUCER

Contact your local UT-TSU Extension agent for more information!

Program Contact: [Jessy Shanks](#)

Email: jharri50@tennessee.edu Phone: 865-974-4160

JUNE

Barn Management

- Implement an effective fly and pest control management system through any combination of fly sprays, dusts, traps, pour ons or mineral supplements.
- Ensure that stalls and pens are being cleaned out properly to reduce ammonia levels and fly attraction.

Breeding Season Preparation

- 45 days before breeding season, line up AI days, stud sire semen and donor dams.
- Select a sire based on desired outcomes by taking genetics, breed, and genotypic preferences into consideration.
- Have a breeding season protocol in place for artificial insemination, synchronized live coverage or natural live coverage.

Fields and Forages

- Continue harvesting hay.
- Rotate pastures accordingly.
- Ensure harvested hay is protected from environmental elements to reduce nutritional value loss.
- Monitor hay bale temperature prior to moving hay into your barn. Above 150 F should be considered a hazard.



Photo submitted by
Taylor Case Watson

JUNE 2026

UTSMALLRUMINANT.UTK.EDU

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	NOTES
31 Due 10/23	1 Due 10/24	2 Due 10/25	3 Due 10/26	4 Due 10/27	5 Due 10/28	6 Due 10/29	
7 Due 10/30	8 Due 10/31	9 Due 11/1	10 Due 11/2	11 Due 11/3	12 Due 11/4	13 Due 11/5	
14 Due 11/6	15 Due 11/7	16 Muharram/Hijra Due 11/8	17 Due 11/9	18 Due 11/10	19 Due 11/11	20 Due 11/12	
21 Due 11/13	22 Due 11/14	23 Due 11/15	24 Due 11/16	25 Due 11/17	26 Due 11/18	27 Due 11/19	
28 Due 11/20	29 Due 11/21	30 Due 11/22	1 Due 11/23	2 Due 11/24	3 Due 11/25	4 Due 11/26	



TN MASTER
SMALL RUMINANT
PRODUCER

Contact your local UT-TSU Extension agent for more information!

Program Contact: **Jessy Shanks**

Email: jharri50@tennessee.edu Phone: 865-974-4160

JULY

Breeding Season

- 45 days prior to breeding season, bucks and rams should have a breeding soundness exam including semen evaluation, inspection of teeth, eyes, feet, legs, and sheath and testicle condition.
- Ensure that both males and females are in proper body condition to enter breeding season. (Refer to BCS Scoring chart in the back)

Herd Health

- Ensure there is fresh, clean water that is easily accessible by all animals in herd.
- Consider vaccine and deworming protocols to be implemented before breeding season.

Fields and Forages

- Clip pastures if grass or weeds get too tall.



Photo submitted by
Kendra Barbra

JULY 2026

UTSMALLRUMINANT.UTK.EDU

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	NOTES
28 Due 11/27	29 Due 11/28	30 Due 11/29	1 Due 11/30	2 Due 12/1	3 Due 12/2	4 Due 12/3	
5 Due 12/4	6 Due 12/5	7 Due 12/6	8 Due 12/7	9 Due 12/8	10 Due 12/9	11 Due 12/10	
12 Due 12/11	13 Due 12/12	14 Due 12/13	15 Due 12/14	16 Due 12/15	17 Due 12/16	18 Due 12/17	
19 Due 12/18	20 Due 12/19	21 Due 12/20	22 Due 12/21	23 Due 12/22	24 Due 12/23	25 Due 12/24	
26 Due 12/25	27 Due 12/26	28 Due 12/27	29 Due 12/28	30 Due 12/29	31 Due 12/30	1 Due 12/31	



TN MASTER
SMALL RUMINANT
PRODUCER

Contact your local UT-TSU Extension agent for more information!

Program Contact: **Jessy Shanks**

Email: jharri50@tennessee.edu Phone: 865-974-4160

AUGUST

Breeding Season

- Keep an eye on females in heat and be sure that they are exposed to a buck within their period of heat, preferably for two cycles.
- If using a marking crayon, be sure that each buck in service has a different marking color for record purposes and change colors every 17-22 days.
- Keep a log of each time the female is marked for potential due dates.

Herd Health

- Perform fecal egg counts to determine parasite loads and best route of treatment.
- Water intake will be higher in hotter months, so be sure that water troughs and equipment are clean.

Show Season

- Regardless of species, a common goal during show season should be to minimize disease susceptibility and maintain health.
- Before your animals ever enter the barns, stalls and pens should be cleaned. Previous bedding should be removed, pens should be disinfected and fresh bedding should be put down.
- If possible, avoid allowing animals from different farms to touch, drink from the same buckets, etc.
- Once home, all equipment should be cleaned and disinfected.

Fields and Forages

- Consider seeding cool season grasses between August 15 and October 1.
- Ensure that there is continuous browsing and grazing opportunities for sheep and goats.



Photo submitted by
Jason Reeves

AUGUST 2026

UTSMALLRUMINANT.UTK.EDU

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	NOTES
26 Due 12/25	27 Due 12/26	28 Due 12/27	29 Due 12/28	30 Due 12/29	31 Due 12/30	1 Due 12/31	
2 Due 1/1	3 Due 1/2	4 Due 1/3	5 Due 1/4	6 Due 1/5	7 Due 1/6	8 Due 1/7	
9 Due 1/8	10 Due 1/9	11 Due 1/10	12 Due 1/11	13 Due 1/12	14 Due 1/13	15 Due 1/14	
16 Due 1/15	17 Due 1/16	18 Due 1/17	19 Due 1/18	20 Due 1/19	21 Due 1/20	22 Due 1/21	
23 Due 1/22	24 Due 1/23	25 Mawlid al-Nabi	26 Due 1/25	27 Due 1/26	28 Due 1/27	29 Due 1/28	
30 Due 1/29	31 Due 1/30						



TN MASTER
SMALL RUMINANT
PRODUCER

Contact your local UT-TSU Extension agent for more information!

Program Contact: [Jessy Shanks](#)

Email: jharri50@tennessee.edu Phone: 865-974-4160

SEPTEMBER

Breeding Season

- Ensure both males and females are in proper BCS to enter breeding season.
- Be familiar with breeding protocols used within the herd.
- Ensure there is enough energy provided through feed and forage supply. Increasing an energy source is typical to avoid pregnancy toxemia.
- 45-60 days after being marked or visually bred, pregnancy check via ultrasound, blood test or other method is best utilized to determine next steps for the health of the dam.
- Contact your vet for recommendations.

Fields and Forages

- Continue taking soil samples to determine soil needs.
- Continue harvesting hay as needed.
- Seed tall fescue in the fall and overseed a legume in early Spring.
- Keep an eye out for toxic weeds as forage becomes less available. Sheep and goats will consume these if forage is low and that is their only option.



Photo submitted by **Brandon Gunn**

SEPTEMBER 2026

UTSMALLRUMINANT.UTK.EDU

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	NOTES
30 Due 1/29	31 Due 1/30	1 Due 1/31	2 Due 2/1	3 Due 2/3	4 Due 2/4	5 Due 2/5	
6 Due 2/6	7 Due 2/7	8 Due 2/8	9 Due 2/9	10 Due 2/10	11 Rosh Hashanah Due 2/11	12 Due 2/12	
13 Rosh Hashanah Ends Due 2/13	14 Due 2/14	15 Due 2/15	16 Due 2/16	17 Due 2/17	18 Due 2/18	19 Due 2/19	
20 Due 2/20	21 Due 2/21	22 Due 2/22	23 Due 2/23	24 Due 2/24	25 Due 2/25	26 Due 2/26	
27 Due 2/27	28 Due 2/28	29 Due 3/1	30 Due 3/2	1 Due 3/3	2 Due 3/4	3 Due 3/5	



TN MASTER
SMALL RUMINANT
PRODUCER

Contact your local UT-TSU Extension agent for more information!

Program Contact: Jessy Shanks

Email: jharri50@tennessee.edu Phone: 865-974-4160

OCTOBER

A photograph of three sheep in a field. In the foreground, a small white lamb stands facing the camera. Behind it to the left, another white lamb stands. To the right, a larger sheep with white and brown patches stands. The background is a blurred green field with trees.

Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program

- Enrollment applications for the following year are due the first week of October.

Fields and Forages

- Soil test hay fields and pastures to identify things needed to restore soil and forage quality.
- Prussic acid (cyanide) poisoning can occur after allowing animals to graze summer annuals after frost.
- Broadleaf weed control should be implemented in pastures.
- Seed winter annuals in warm season forages.
- More management is typically needed, not more seed.



Photo submitted by **Kelly Howard**

OCTOBER 2026

UTSMALLRUMINANT.UTK.EDU

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	NOTES
27 Due 2/27	28 Due 2/28	29 Due 3/1	30 Due 3/2	1 Due 3/3	2 Due 3/4	3 Due 3/5	
4 Due 3/6	5 Due 3/7	6 Due 3/8	7 Due 3/9	8 Due 3/10	9 Due 3/11	10 Due 3/12	
11 Due 3/13	12 Due 3/14	13 Due 3/15	14 Due 3/16	15 Due 3/17	16 Due 3/18	17 Due 3/19	
18 Due 3/20	19 Due 3/21	20 Due 3/22	21 Due 3/23	22 Due 3/24	23 Due 3/25	24 Due 3/26	
25 Due 3/27	26 Due 3/28	27 Due 3/29	28 Due 3/30	29 Due 3/31	30 Due 4/1	31 Due 4/2	



TN MASTER
SMALL RUMINANT
PRODUCER

Contact your local UT-TSU Extension agent for more information!

Program Contact: **Jessy Shanks**

Email: jharri50@tennessee.edu Phone: 865-974-4160

NOVEMBER

Care During Gestation

- Monitor dams for abnormal behaviors.
- 30 days prior to kidding or lambing due date (around four months gestation), administer CD&T and Chlamydia to all dams.
- Vaccinate sires with CD&T and Chlamydia and booster annually.

Barn Management

- Start preparing for winter and colder weather.
- Ensure quality hay is obtained and begin feeding.
- Inspect hay feeding equipment.
- Winterize the barn: drop wind screens, close barn doors, bed stall areas down heavier.
- Wrap exposed pipes and water spigots to prevent them freezing or bursting.
- Make sure feed is off the ground or in closeable containers to prevent mice, rodents and other unwanted pests.

Fields and Forages

- Take note of standing forage and hay supply.
- If needed, begin utilizing baled hay and provide continuous access to the herd.
- Continue rotating pastures before any impressionable damage occurs to soil, grasses, water supply, etc.



Photo submitted by **Victoria Morris**

NOVEMBER 2026

UTSMALLRUMINANT.UTK.EDU

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	NOTES
1 Due 3/19	2 Due 3/20	3 Due 3/21	4 Due 3/22	5 Due 3/23	6 Due 3/24	7 Due 3/25	
8 Due 3/26	9 Due 3/27	10 Due 3/28	11 Due 3/29	12 Due 3/30	13 Due 3/31	14 Due 4/1	
15 Due 4/2	16 Due 4/3	17 Due 4/4	18 Due 4/5	19 Due 4/6	20 Due 4/7	21 Due 4/8	
22 Due 4/9	23 Due 4/10	24 Due 4/11	25 Due 4/12	26 Due 4/13	27 Due 4/14	28 Due 4/15	
29 Due 4/16	30 Due 4/17	1 Due 4/18	2 Due 4/19	3 Due 4/20	4 Due 4/21	5 Due 4/22	



TN MASTER
SMALL RUMINANT
PRODUCER

Contact your local UT-TSU Extension agent for more information!

Program Contact: **Jessy Shanks**

Email: jharri50@tennessee.edu Phone: 865-974-4160

DECEMBER

Care During Gestation, Continued

- Pregnancy toxemia is common in heavily bred does and ewes. This is a negative energy balance, and they are not taking in enough energy to maintain themselves and the fetus. Ensure enough energy is being provided and look for abnormal behaviors including lethargy, fatigue, swollen legs, sweet smelling breath and urine, and inability to stand for long periods of time.

Feeding

- Feed hay up off the ground in clean bunks or racks.
- Pay attention to feed quality. Moldy or fermented feed can cause a variety of health problems including listeriosis, circling disease, etc.

Master Small Ruminant Program

- Contact your local Extension office for registration details for Spring MSRP courses.

Preparing for Kidding and Lambing Season

- Prepare lambing and kidding jugs and pens.
- Make sure that each area has adequate space and is clean and freshly bedded with clean equipment.
- Check all supplies like colostrum, tubing equipment, electrolytes, OB chains/tape, scales and gloves.

Supplies to keep on hand:

- Gloves, milk replacer, frozen colostrum, stomach tubes and 30cc tube syringe, bottles and nipples, towels, electrolytes, heat lamps and a good relationship with your veterinarian.



Photo submitted by **Holly Wood**

DECEMBER 2026

UTSMALLRUMINANT.UTK.EDU

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	NOTES
29 Due 4/16	30 Due 4/17	1 Due 4/18	2 Due 4/19	3 Due 4/20	4 Hanukkah Due 4/21	5 Due 4/22	
6 Due 4/23	7 Due 4/24	8 Due 4/25	9 Due 4/26	10 Due 4/27	11 Due 4/28	12 Hanukkah Ends Due 4/29	
13 Due 4/30	14 Due 5/1	15 Due 5/2	16 Due 5/3	17 Due 5/4	18 Due 5/5	19 Due 5/6	
20 Due 5/7	21 Due 5/8	22 Due 5/9	23 Due 5/10	24 Due 5/11	25 Christmas (Western) Due 5/12	26 Due 5/13	
27 Due 5/14	28 Due 5/15	29 Due 5/16	30 Due 5/17	31 Due 5/18	1 Due 5/19	2 Due 5/20	



TN MASTER
SMALL RUMINANT
PRODUCER

Contact your local UT-TSU Extension agent for more information!

Program Contact: Jessy Shanks

Email: jharri50@tennessee.edu Phone: 865-974-4160

Gestation Table

(based on 148 days)

Bred	Due	Bred	Due	Bred	Due	Bred	Due	Bred	Due	Bred	Due	Bred	Due	Bred	Due	Bred	Due	Bred	Due
1-Jan	26-May	1-Feb	26-Jun	1-Mar	24-Jul	1-Apr	24-Aug	1-May	23-Sep	1-Jun	24-Oct	1-Jul	23-Nov	1-Aug	24-Dec	1-Sep	24-Jan	1-Oct	23-Feb
2-Jan	27-May	2-Feb	27-Jun	2-Mar	25-Jul	2-Apr	25-Aug	2-May	24-Sep	2-Jun	25-Oct	2-Jul	24-Nov	2-Aug	25-Dec	2-Sep	25-Jan	2-Oct	24-Feb
3-Jan	28-May	3-Feb	28-Jun	3-Mar	26-Jul	3-Apr	26-Aug	3-May	25-Sep	3-Jun	26-Oct	3-Jul	25-Nov	3-Aug	26-Dec	3-Sep	26-Jan	3-Oct	25-Feb
4-Jan	29-May	4-Feb	29-Jun	4-Mar	27-Jul	4-Apr	27-Aug	4-May	26-Sep	4-Jun	27-Oct	4-Jul	26-Nov	4-Aug	27-Dec	4-Sep	27-Jan	4-Oct	26-Feb
5-Jan	30-May	5-Feb	30-Jun	5-Mar	28-Jul	5-Apr	28-Aug	5-May	27-Sep	5-Jun	28-Oct	5-Jul	27-Nov	5-Aug	28-Dec	5-Sep	28-Jan	5-Oct	27-Feb
6-Jan	31-May	6-Feb	1-Jul	6-Mar	29-Jul	6-Apr	29-Aug	6-May	28-Sep	6-Jun	29-Oct	6-Jul	28-Nov	6-Aug	29-Dec	6-Sep	29-Jan	6-Oct	28-Feb
7-Jan	1-Jun	7-Feb	2-Jul	7-Mar	30-Jul	7-Apr	30-Aug	7-May	29-Sep	7-Jun	30-Oct	7-Jul	29-Nov	7-Aug	30-Dec	7-Sep	30-Jan	7-Oct	1-Mar
8-Jan	2-Jun	8-Feb	3-Jul	8-Mar	31-Jul	8-Apr	31-Aug	8-May	30-Sep	8-Jun	31-Oct	8-Jul	30-Nov	8-Aug	31-Dec	8-Sep	31-Jan	8-Oct	2-Mar
9-Jan	3-Jun	9-Feb	4-Jul	9-Mar	1-Aug	9-Apr	1-Sep	9-May	1-Oct	9-Jun	1-Nov	9-Jul	1-Dec	9-Aug	1-Jan	9-Sep	1-Feb	9-Oct	3-Mar
10-Jan	4-Jun	10-Feb	5-Jul	10-Mar	2-Aug	10-Apr	2-Sep	10-May	2-Oct	10-Jun	2-Nov	10-Jul	2-Dec	10-Aug	2-Jan	10-Sep	2-Feb	10-Oct	4-Mar
11-Jan	5-Jun	11-Feb	6-Jul	11-Mar	3-Aug	11-Apr	3-Sep	11-May	3-Oct	11-Jun	3-Nov	11-Jul	3-Dec	11-Aug	3-Jan	11-Sep	3-Feb	11-Oct	5-Mar
12-Jan	6-Jun	12-Feb	7-Jul	12-Mar	4-Aug	12-Apr	4-Sep	12-May	4-Oct	12-Jun	4-Nov	12-Jul	4-Dec	12-Aug	4-Jan	12-Sep	4-Feb	12-Oct	6-Mar
13-Jan	7-Jun	13-Feb	8-Jul	13-Mar	5-Aug	13-Apr	5-Sep	13-May	5-Oct	13-Jun	5-Nov	13-Jul	5-Dec	13-Aug	5-Jan	13-Sep	5-Feb	13-Oct	7-Mar
14-Jan	8-Jun	14-Feb	9-Jul	14-Mar	6-Aug	14-Apr	6-Sep	14-May	6-Oct	14-Jun	6-Nov	14-Jul	6-Dec	14-Aug	6-Jan	14-Sep	6-Feb	14-Oct	8-Mar
15-Jan	9-Jun	15-Feb	10-Jul	15-Mar	7-Aug	15-Apr	7-Sep	15-May	7-Oct	15-Jun	7-Nov	15-Jul	7-Dec	15-Aug	7-Jan	15-Sep	7-Feb	15-Oct	9-Mar
16-Jan	10-Jun	16-Feb	11-Jul	16-Mar	8-Aug	16-Apr	8-Sep	16-May	8-Oct	16-Jun	8-Nov	16-Jul	8-Dec	16-Aug	8-Jan	16-Sep	8-Feb	16-Oct	10-Mar
17-Jan	11-Jun	17-Feb	12-Jul	17-Mar	9-Aug	17-Apr	9-Sep	17-May	9-Oct	17-Jun	9-Nov	17-Jul	9-Dec	17-Aug	9-Jan	17-Sep	9-Feb	17-Oct	11-Mar
18-Jan	12-Jun	18-Feb	13-Jul	18-Mar	10-Aug	18-Apr	10-Sep	18-May	10-Oct	18-Jun	10-Nov	18-Jul	10-Dec	18-Aug	10-Jan	18-Sep	10-Feb	18-Oct	12-Mar
19-Jan	13-Jun	19-Feb	14-Jul	19-Mar	11-Aug	19-Apr	11-Sep	19-May	11-Oct	19-Jun	11-Nov	19-Jul	11-Dec	19-Aug	11-Jan	19-Sep	11-Feb	19-Oct	13-Mar
20-Jan	14-Jun	20-Feb	15-Jul	20-Mar	12-Aug	20-Apr	12-Sep	20-May	12-Oct	20-Jun	12-Nov	20-Jul	12-Dec	20-Aug	12-Jan	20-Sep	12-Feb	20-Oct	14-Mar
21-Jan	15-Jun	21-Feb	16-Jul	21-Mar	13-Aug	21-Apr	13-Sep	21-May	13-Oct	21-Jun	13-Nov	21-Jul	13-Dec	21-Aug	13-Jan	21-Sep	13-Feb	21-Oct	15-Mar
22-Jan	16-Jun	22-Feb	17-Jul	22-Mar	14-Aug	22-Apr	14-Sep	22-May	14-Oct	22-Jun	14-Nov	22-Jul	14-Dec	22-Aug	14-Jan	22-Sep	14-Feb	22-Oct	16-Mar
23-Jan	17-Jun	23-Feb	18-Jul	23-Mar	15-Aug	23-Apr	15-Sep	23-May	15-Oct	23-Jun	15-Nov	23-Jul	15-Dec	23-Aug	15-Jan	23-Sep	15-Feb	23-Oct	17-Mar
24-Jan	18-Jun	24-Feb	19-Jul	24-Mar	16-Aug	24-Apr	16-Sep	24-May	16-Oct	24-Jun	16-Nov	24-Jul	16-Dec	24-Aug	16-Jan	24-Sep	16-Feb	24-Oct	18-Mar
25-Jan	19-Jun	25-Feb	20-Jul	25-Mar	17-Aug	25-Apr	17-Sep	25-May	17-Oct	25-Jun	17-Nov	25-Jul	17-Dec	25-Aug	17-Jan	25-Sep	17-Feb	25-Oct	19-Mar
26-Jan	20-Jun	26-Feb	21-Jul	26-Mar	18-Aug	26-Apr	18-Sep	26-May	18-Oct	26-Jun	18-Nov	26-Jul	18-Dec	26-Aug	18-Jan	26-Sep	18-Feb	26-Oct	20-Mar
27-Jan	21-Jun	27-Feb	22-Jul	27-Mar	19-Aug	27-Apr	19-Sep	27-May	19-Oct	27-Jun	19-Nov	27-Jul	19-Dec	27-Aug	19-Jan	27-Sep	19-Feb	27-Oct	21-Mar
28-Jan	22-Jun	28-Feb	23-Jul	28-Mar	20-Aug	28-Apr	20-Sep	28-May	20-Oct	28-Jun	20-Nov	28-Jul	20-Dec	28-Aug	20-Jan	28-Sep	20-Feb	28-Oct	22-Mar
29-Jan	23-Jun			29-Mar	21-Aug	29-Apr	21-Sep	29-May	21-Oct	29-Jun	21-Nov	29-Jul	21-Dec	29-Aug	21-Jan	29-Sep	21-Feb	29-Oct	23-Mar
30-Jan	24-Jun			30-Mar	22-Aug	30-Apr	22-Sep	30-May	22-Oct	30-Jun	22-Nov	30-Jul	22-Dec	30-Aug	22-Jan	30-Sep	22-Feb	30-Oct	24-Mar
31-Jan	25-Jun			31-Mar	23-Aug			31-May	23-Oct			31-Jul	23-Dec	31-Aug	23-Jan			31-Oct	25-Mar

NOTES

Body Condition Scoring Chart

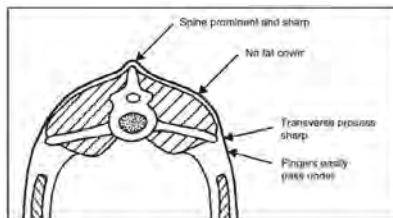


Figure 4.—Condition 1

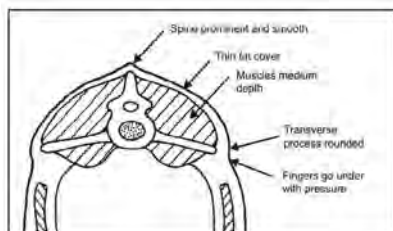


Figure 5.—Condition 2

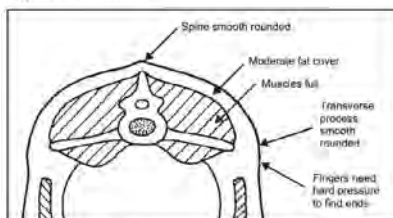


Figure 6.—Condition 3

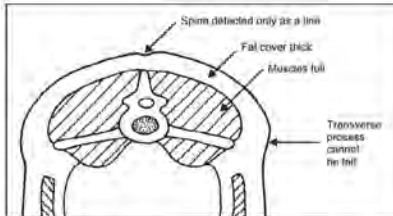


Figure 7.—Condition 4

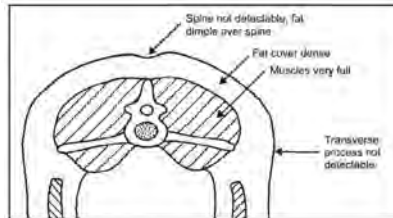


Figure 8.—Condition 5

Condition 1 – Emaciated

- Spinous processes are sharp and prominent.
- Loin eye muscle is shallow with no fat cover.
- Transverse processes are sharp; one can pass fingers under ends.
- It is possible to feel between each process.

Condition 2 – Thin

- Spinous processes are sharp and prominent. Loin eye muscle has little fat cover but is full.
- Transverse processes are smooth and slightly rounded.
- It is possible to pass fingers under the ends of the transverse processes with a little pressure.

Condition 3 – Average

- Spinous processes are smooth and rounded and one can feel individual processes only with pressure.
- Transverse processes are smooth and well covered, and firm pressure is needed to feel over the ends.
- Loin eye muscle is full with some fat cover.

Condition 4 – Fat

- Spinous processes can be detected only with pressure as a hard line.
- Transverse processes cannot be felt.
- Loin eye muscle is full with a thick fat cover.

Condition 5 – Obese

- Spinous processes can't be detected. There is a depression between fat where spine would normally be felt. Transverse processes cannot be detected. Loin eye muscle very full with very thick fat cover.



Photo submitted by **Holly Wood**

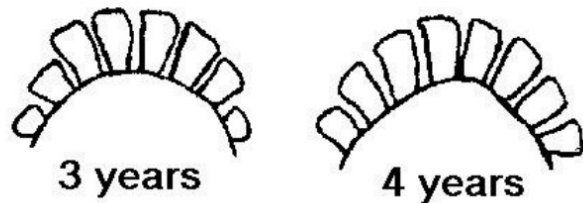
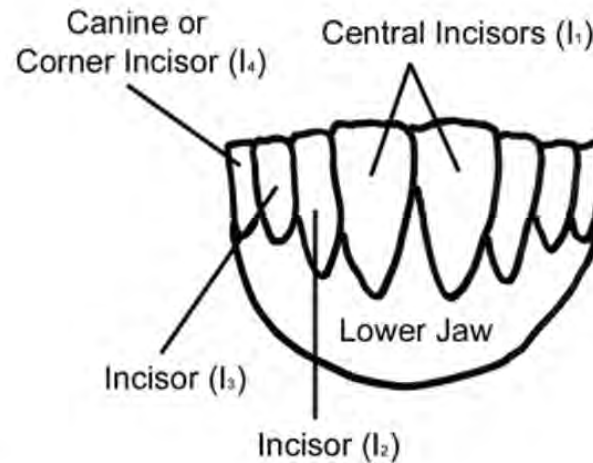


TN MASTER
SMALL RUMINANT
PRODUCER

Sheep Dental Aging

Permanent Tooth Eruption in Sheep and Goats

Permanent tooth	Age at Eruption
Incisor (I ₁)	1-1.5 years
Incisor (I ₂)	1.5-2 years
Incisor (I ₃)	2.5-3 years
Incisor (I ₄)	3.5-4 years
Premolars	1.5-2 years
Molar (M ₁)	3 months
Molar (M ₂)	9-12 months
Molar (M ₃)	1.5-2 years



Notice the spread between teeth as the sheep ages. Deciduous lamb teeth are replaced by incisors, one pair each year. Extremely old ewes will lose all their teeth eventually and become "gummers."

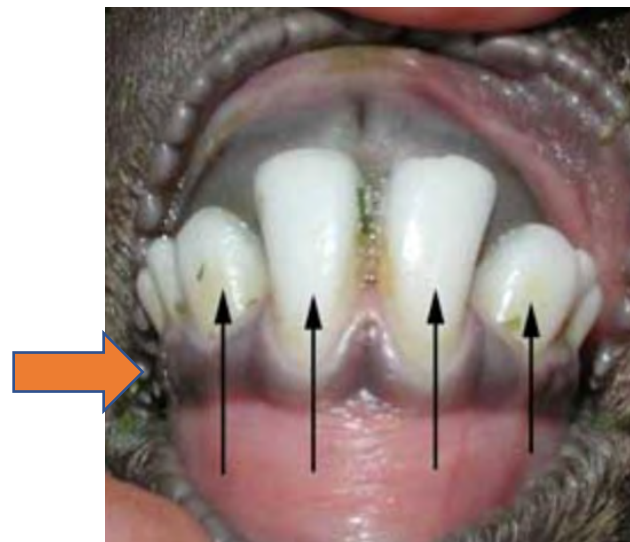
Lambs are born with eight milk teeth, these are deciduous teeth that will fall out and be replaced by permanent incisors, they are much smaller than permanent teeth.

Goat Dental Aging



Goats have a total of 32 teeth and no upper incisors. Only a dental pad (left) exists on the upper jaw. They also have molars in the back on the lower jaw which are used to crush and grind feed and forage.

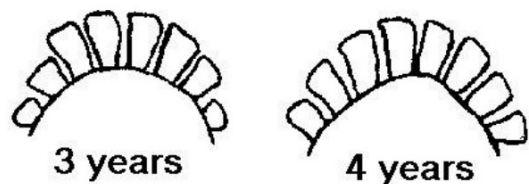
This picture indicates a 1.5-2 year old goat with four permanent incisors on the lower jaw.



Source: photos & information from www.infovets.com



Notice the spread between teeth as the goat ages. Deciduous milk teeth are replaced by incisors, one pair each year. After 4 years, it's hard to estimate age because of uneven wear, environment and diet.



Kids are born with two milk teeth, more erupt from the center outward, so they have four sets or eight milk teeth by the time the kid is approximately one month old. These are deciduous teeth that will fall out and be replaced by permanent incisors, they are much smaller than permanent teeth.



TN MASTER
SMALL RUMINANT
PRODUCER

Program Contact: Jessy Shanks

Email: jharri50@tennessee.edu Phone: 865-974-4160 utsmallruminant.utk.edu

Contact your county UT-TSU agent for more information at tiny.utk.edu/extensionoffices.





TN MASTER
SMALL RUMINANT
PRODUCER

UTIA
INSTITUTE OF
AGRICULTURE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE



Photo submitted by
Holly Wood

UTIA.TENNESSEE.EDU

Real. Life. Solutions.™