

Animal Health

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What are the important things we can do to improve health?

How can we keep them healthy?

Key things they need:

- Beef cattle
- Pigs
- Chickens/Ducks
- Goats



Key things to do for them:

- Nutrition
- Housing/field conditions
- Stress
- Management
- Prevent disease



How can we keep them healthy?

Basics of health management:

Not all losses and diseases can be prevented, but good management can reduce these problems

Outcomes of disease:

- Animal can die loss, but not as common
- Animal can get sick and eventually recover MAJOR LOSS, most common outcome, problem is loss in production, treatment costs, labor costs, weight loss, potential spread to other animals
 - Can be obvious and sick
 - May not be so obvious but results in same problem loss!



Animal health

- Principles of health
 - Healthy animals take care and attention
 - Good nutrition
 - Good quality food = less disease
 - Housing/shelter
 - Protection from sun, heat, rain, winds
 - If kept in houses, need good ventilation
 - Clean
 - ▶ Keep things clean and in good repair
 - Check animals often
 - ▶ The sooner the better





Beef cattle

- ▶ How to tell if they are sick
 - Resting too much instead of eating
 - When put in a new place to graze, they don't
 - Don't have a good shape (flat sided)
 - Droopy ears
 - Head held low
 - Humped back
 - Limping
 - Runny nose
 - Diarrhea





Beef cattle

- How to tell if they are sick
 - Normal temperature is 101.5 degrees F
 - Can range in normal animal 99-103 if in sun/hot/humid/dark color of hair
 - Normal breathing rate is 10-30 breaths/minute
 - Higher end for hot/humid/dark cattle
 - Calves will have higher breathing rate at 15-40





Beef cattle

Body condition score

- Check and write down at least twice a year
- See Dr. Thorne's notes
- ▶ I-9 points
- ▶ I=really skinny
- > 9=obese
- *5-6= perfect for breeding and health*





Goats

- How to tell if they are sick
 - Very strong instinct to stay with herd
 - When scared, form a line and watch
 - +/- Sneeze sound
 - May not show signs of being sick or may be subtle
 - Alert eyes, upright tail
 - Browsing for feeding





Goats

- How to tell if they are sick
 - Normal temperature is 102.3 degrees F
 - Can range 101.5-103.5 in normal animal if sun/hot/humid dark color of hair
 - Normal breathing rate is 12-20 breaths/minute
 - Higher end for hot/humid/dark goats

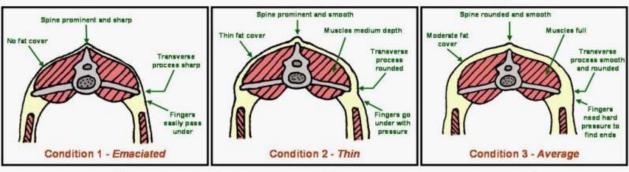


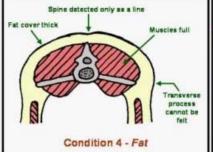


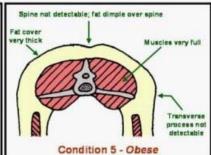
Goats

Body condition score

- Check and write down at least 4x a year
- ▶ First lumbar vertebrae (right behind ribs feel muscle)
- ▶ 0-5 points
- 0=really skinny
- ▶ 5=obese
- *3= perfect*







Pigs

- How to tell if they are sick
 - Growing pigs sleep a lot
 - Wake easy
 - Move around, move to corner, make noise, then show interest
 - Stay very close together
 - Don't get pushed around by pen-mates
 - Ears should be up, curl in tail
 - Is body condition similar to others?





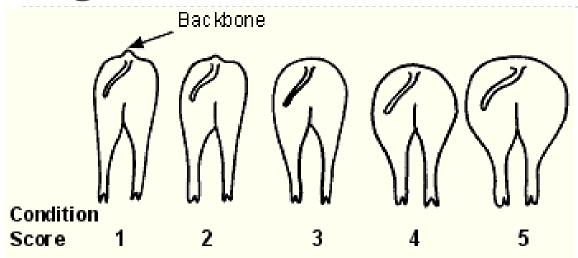


Pigs

- How to tell if they are sick
 - Normal temperature is 101.5 F
 - Can range 100.4-102.8 in normal animal if hot/humid
 - Can be up to 103.5 in piglets
 - Normal breathing rate is15 breaths/minute
 - Piglets will have higher breathing rate at 30



Pigs





Body condition score

- Check and write down at breeding, mid-pregnancy, farrowing
- ▶ I-5 points (different that the scores for cattle)
- ▶ I=really skinny
- ▶ 5=obese
- *3.5= perfect for breeding and health*
- Have to press with hands to feel backbone and hips

Chickens

- ▶ How to tell if they are sick
 - Search for feed/scratch
 - Should stand strong
 - Head should be strong
 - Take up water into beak and raise head
 - Vocalize when disturbed
 - ▶ Take care of feathers
 - Not feather plucking
 - Bright eyes and comb
 - Soft, formed droppings

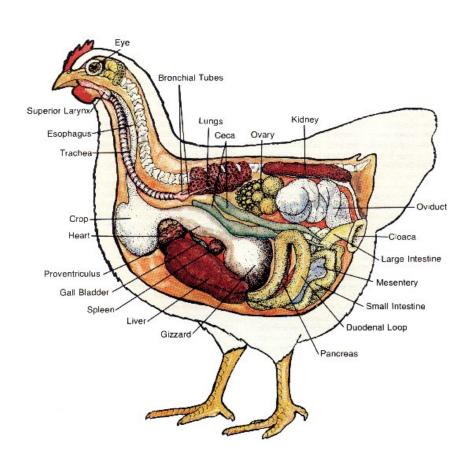




Chickens

- How to tell if they are sick
 - Normal temperature is 103-109.4 F

 Not really taken though
 - Normal breathing rate is 12-36 breaths/minute
 - No sweat glands
 - Will pant if too hot or stressed

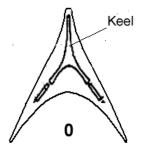


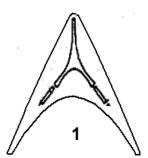


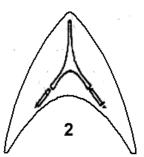
Chickens

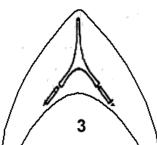
Body condition score

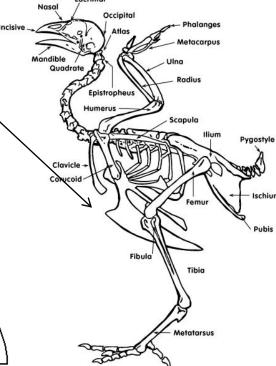
- Check and write down
- ▶ 0-3 points (different that the scores for other animals)
- Holding upside down, feel breast bone
- 0=really skinny
- ▶ 3=obese
- *2= perfect for laying and broiler*













Pig

- Pig has been growing fine until recently, feces are normal, respiration is normal, no fever
- Over time getting worse, a lot of scratching of the skin, shaking of the head, reddish skin and ears, now one swollen ear that is flopped down
- Loss of body condition by 1 full point very recently





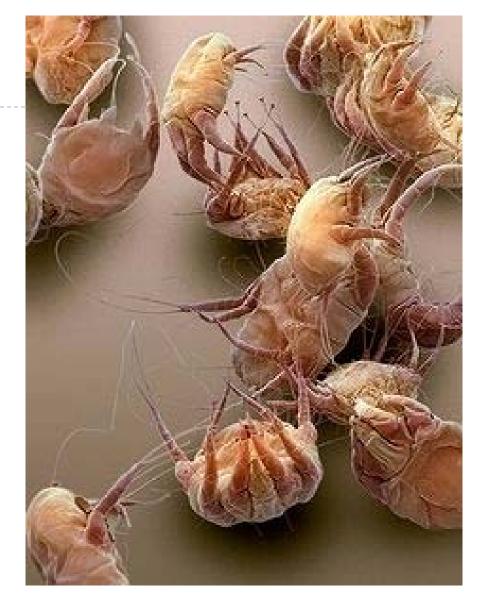




- Pig
 - Exam shows dark crusty material in ears
 - Look at this material under a microscope
 - Check other pigs and find that more than one pig has this



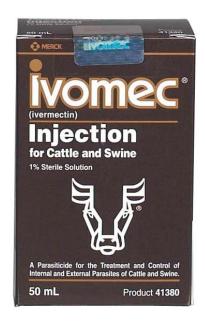




▶ Sarcoptic Mange – a mite/insect



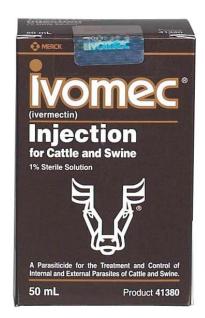
Pig



- Finding is Sarcoptic mange
- If left without treating, will not kill the pigs, but will cause decreased gain of weight and decreased breeding
- Treat with ivermectin injectable note how long you need to wait before slaughter
- ▶ Since it spreads to many animals (often 15/100 animals)
 - probably will need to treat all of them







- Finding is Sarcoptic mange
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 probably will need to treat all of them
- Ear flopped down formed a blood pocket in the ear because of shaking head – can drain and put sutures in





Chickens

- Meat birds have weakness in the cage, sitting on legs tucked under them, can't stand much at all
- Notice this in many chickens
- Few birds have head tilted back and looking up
- Loss of body condition





Chickens

- Meat birds have weakness in the cage, sitting on legs tucked under them, can't stand much at all
- Notice this in many chickens
- Few birds have head tilted back and looking up
- Noticed that this has been developing over time
- No diarrhea, no respiratory problems



- Chickens
- ▶ Check feed many animals are developing this
- Find that vitamins and minerals are not at the right level for these growing birds
- Diagnosis is mineral and vitamin deficiency leading to bone weakening and muscle weakening





Chickens

- ▶ Check feed many animals are developing this
- Find that vitamins and minerals are not at the right level for these growing birds
- Diagnosis is mineral and vitamin deficiency leading to bone weakening and muscle weakening
- Change to feed made for growing birds
- Also check feed for others, laying hens, chicks all need better feed than scratch chicken feed



- Chickens
 - Best types of chicken feed for your groups

Feed Terms	
Layer Starter	Feed for baby chicks that will grow into layer chickens.
Broiler Starter	Feed for baby poultry that are grown for consumption.
Grower/Developer	Feed for older chicks but before adult feed.
Layer	Feed mixed precisely for layer chickens in production.
Broiler/Finisher	Feed mixed precisely to encourage growth of poultry consumed.
Scratch	Supplemental feed often used with layers during low egg production (winter).



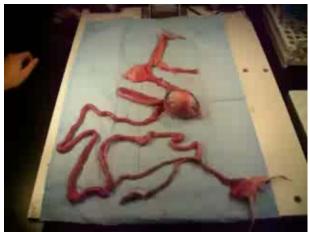






- Chickens
 - Best types of chicken feed for your groups
 - Also remember what the gizzard needs





Grit	Small pieces of insolvent stone eaten by chickens to grind their food.
Calcium	Limestone or sea shell supplement consumed only by layers in production.



See cows with red in urine

A few weeks later notice

abortions in cows







- Leptospirosis
- Affects people!!!
- Lives in surface waters & flood waters
- Many types
- Rodents, feral pigs, farm pigs, other livestock, people
- Signs fever, depression, muscle pain
- Often progresses to kidney damage
- Important reason to keep animal waste runoff away from water sources/swimming areas









Remember:



- Observe your animals often
- Watch behavior
- Check their body condition (small problems can cost you more longterm)
- Look to make sure they are healthy
- Watch them grow!



Thank you for having us – it has been wonderful to meet and learn about ya'll!



