

March 2007

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Oh BEHAVE!

Behavioral Education for
Human, Animal, Vegetation
& Ecosystem Management

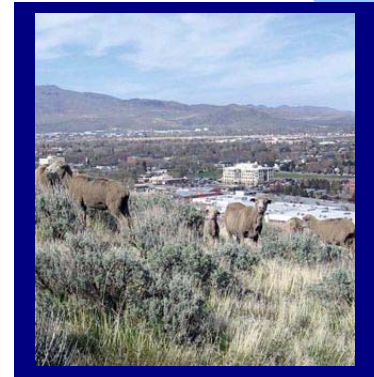
BEHAVE Outreach Program • 435-797-3576

The Newsletter for the
BEHAVE Research and
Outreach Program

**Extension and NRCS
Personnel in WA:**
BEHAVE Facilitators
Network Workshop
March 28-29 Moses
Lake, WA. [More Info](#)

BEHAVE Principle of the Month:

Mother knows best. An animal's mother has the greatest effect on what an animal eats and where it lives. Mom efficiently passes information on to her offspring because a young animal grazes close to its mother, eating foods she eats and avoiding foods she avoids. When buying replacements, look for animals familiar with plants similar to those on your place. If you raise your own replacements, don't keep animals if you don't like their mothers' behavior, no matter how good they look. For more information read the fact sheet [Mother Knows Best](#)



New Targeted Grazing Handbook Now Available

Using livestock grazing to suppress unwanted plants has been around for centuries. Now, targeted grazing by livestock is being rediscovered and honed as an effective tool to address today's vegetation management challenges, including controlling invasive weeds, reducing fire risk at the wildland-urban interface and increasing biodiversity and wildlife habitat.

If you want to get started or need some tips or hints check out the new handbook released online in December. The handbook compiles the latest information and research on harnessing

livestock to graze vegetation in ways that improve the function and appearance of a wide variety of landscapes.

The handbook was created thanks to funding from the National Sheep Industry Association and the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI). The handbook can be viewed on-line at: <http://www.cnr.uidaho.edu/rx-grazing/Handbook.htm>. Printed copies of the handbook are also available through ASI (info@sheepusa.org) for \$25.00.




Economics Video – Benefits of Using Low Moisture block to Improve Cattle Distribution

The study of animal learning and behavior and how it affects diet and habitat selection has recently caught the attention and interest of many people but can this new knowledge improve a producer's bottom line? Last spring, Beth Burritt and Kathy Voth received a grant from Western SARE Professional Development Program to create a series of four of videos on the economics of behavior.

The videos will focus on 1) using low moisture block to improve cattle distribution, 2) alternative feeding practices for bison, 3) training cows to be weed mangers, and 4) using herding to improve livestock distribution. The videos and companion workbook are aimed at helping producers determine if these practices have economic benefits for their operations and how to implement them.

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**BEHAVE
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Economics video ...

In February, Burritt and Voth traveled to Las Cruces, NM to film and interview Derek Bailey and Allen Torell on the economic benefit of using low moisture blocks to improve cattle distribution.

According to Bailey and Torell, low moisture blocks can be profitable if they are used to extend the grazing season

by encouraging cattle to increase forage utilization in areas cattle normally don't graze. Low moisture blocks can also provide an economic benefit for producers grazing public grazing lands by reducing impacts of grazing in riparian areas allowing cattle to remain on public lands longer.

Your Source
for All Things
BEHAVE

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We're on the Web!
See us at:
www.behave.net

It's about feedback!
Calf in India develops
a taste for chicken.
[Click Here.](#)

New Fact Sheet - Mineral Nutrition: Are Ruminants Nutritionally Wise?

The January BEHAVE Newsletter highlighted Juan Villalba's current research on the ability of sheep to rectify phosphorus and calcium deficiencies. However, most ruminant nutritionists will tell you that ruminants are not nutritionally wise especially when it comes to mineral nutrition and they have the studies to prove it.

So why were the conclusions from past studies on mineral nutrition and ours so different? A new fact sheet entitled *Mineral Nutrition: Are Animals Nutritionally Wise?* outlines the

assumptions these nutritionists made about diet selection and why ruminants may have had a difficult time rectifying mineral deficiencies in those studies. The fact sheet also explores how our current knowledge about animal behavior and diet selection affects interpretation of previous results from nutritional wisdom studies and suggests changes in experimental designs to take another look at the ability of ruminants to balance minerals in their diets. The fact sheet can be viewed at: http://www.behave.net/fact_sheets/Nutrition_wisdom_mineral.pdf.

Coming soon:

- Forage sequencing: Not only what but when
- The art of herding increases forage intake
- Behavior facts

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