

Animals Session Q&A

What is the first definitive symptom of ketosis?

Here is the description of the symptoms from the Merck Veterinary Manual.

<https://www.merckvetmanual.com/metabolic-disorders/hepatic-lipidosis/pregnancy-toxemia-in-sheep-and-goats>

How can you restrict farm access and run an agritourism operation?

You can do this by making sure that the agritourist do not have direct contact with the birds. Make sure they have gone through the basic biosecurity check, like washing their hands, using coverall, and boot.

What's a good way to destroy infected corpses when on-grid and grid-adjacent to prevent secondary contaminations?

This depend on what is allowed by government in your area. In some areas you could bury, composting or rendering. Rendering involve heat treatment to kill the pathogens.

Which anti coccidiosis meds are allowed for organic production?

For organic production, Meds are generally disallowed. However, they are known natural plants and compound that can help combat coccidiosis. I have used charcoal in water for organic birds and it has proved to be very effective. Others had used bitter leaf plants to trat it.

Were the "birds affected" the same as birds euthanized?

Yes, once the birds affected is Avian Influenza, we have to euthanized to minimize spread as this disease spread very fast and can be transmitted to human

Can visitors who haven't been in contact with any other flocks bring diseases?

Yes, disease causing pathogens are everywhere; water, air, land etc. That is the reason why you need to have that biosecurity check for any visitor. Hand washing, coverall use, boot washing and disinfecting.

Any specific disinfectant for brooders?

This depends on your brooding stage, generally it is advised to use mild disinfectants when brooding. Sodium Hypochloride is often used, make sure you check the dilution rate and dilute appropriately.

Is it necessary to quarantine chicks purchased from a farm supply store?

If your purchase is from a reputable supply store and you do not have other flocks in the house for them to mix with, there is no need. However, there is a need to be very observant and monitor birds that might show sign of disease and separate them.

When I must visit a commercial farm, I know that I can't have poultry contact from home, what about if I have a wild bird feeder?

If you have a wild bird feeder, there is a need to make sure that they are always in clean condition and you regularly wash and disinfect your hands when you touched them to protect yourself and household. Again, when you visit a commercial farm, do well to follow all the biosecurity set up and protect yourself by washing your hand before you leave as this could be very useful in protecting yourself and others that come in contact with you.

I have seen training options for grazing sheep in orchards. Is there a guide somewhere? Where do I find the bolus that is suggested? I have some really tiny sheep that would do well in this environment.

There are some great guides if you go to the American Sheep Industry website. There is a huge movement around targeted grazing in the sheep industry. Mainly in solar grazing. I would be happy to talk about sheep and targeted grazing (chad.page@usu.edu)