

March on the Farm: Preparing Livestock for Spring

As winter begins to fade, March is an important transition month for livestock producers and youth exhibitors. While cold weather can still appear, longer days and slightly warmer temperatures signal that spring, and a busy livestock season are just around the corner.

For those raising cattle, sheep, goats, and pigs, March is a good time to evaluate animal health after the winter months. Checking body condition, monitoring hooves, and reviewing vaccination schedules are all important steps to keep livestock healthy. Producers should also be careful when adjusting feed as animals eventually transition toward spring pasture.

March is an especially exciting time for young livestock exhibitors involved in 4-H and FFA. Many youth begin selecting their project animals for the upcoming fair season. Bringing home a new calf, lamb, goat, or pig marks the start of months of responsibility and learning.

During these early weeks, exhibitors begin establishing routines that include feeding, grooming, halter breaking, and practicing showmanship. These daily tasks help build trust between the animal and the exhibitor while developing important skills that will carry through the summer show season.

Although March weather can still be unpredictable, it represents the start of a new livestock season and the opportunities that come with it. The time and care invested now helps set both animals and exhibitors up for a successful year ahead.