



Dairy, Livestock, Poultry Production

Situation:

The New Hampshire livestock industry is diverse and scattered throughout the state. The state's livestock industry is important to maintaining open space and the rural setting enjoyed by its residents. Each aspect of the industry is important in maintaining the overall infrastructure needed for animal production.

The livestock industry has evolved over the years and many things Cooperative Extension traditionally worked on have been taken over by agribusinesses such as forage testing, ration balancing and production testing. Now more than ever, the livestock industry is looking to Extension as a source of non-biased, researched-based information to make informed decisions. They need help in holistic management, business management, facilitating family communication, and the practical application of current research findings.

Further, the number of large animal veterinarians nationwide is decreasing. Yet many New Hampshire residents own horses, llamas and other backyard livestock. With such limited access to professional veterinary care, owners need to learn the basics of preventive and emergency care for their animals.

UNH Cooperative Extension's Public Value:

Keeping Carroll County's open land in profitable farm production not only improves the rural character and contributes to the overall economy of the county, it also provides locally grown food and open space that helps support tourism and increase the value of homes and businesses.

UNH Cooperative Extension's Response:

Carroll County's Agricultural Resources Extension Educator Tina Savage provides educational programs for livestock, dairy and poultry producers. Working with Extension Specialists Pete Erickson and Mike Sciabarrasi, and Extension Specialist Emeritus, John Porter, Carroll County livestock and dairy producers have the expertise they need to answer production and management questions.

Carroll County producers attend workshops, receive one-on-one assistance through farm/site visits, and have access to a host of information through distance education materials on the UNH Cooperative Extension Web site.

More and more people rely on web-based information to educate themselves on a multitude of topics. Providing access to research-based information in the form of fact sheets, Web quests and on-line video provides these people with accurate, research based information from a reliable source. Having access to this information through distance learning allows UNH Cooperative Extension to reach a broader more diverse audience.

A nine-minute informational video was produced to highlight the procedures and processes leading up to and including, the birth of a goat. This video is on the UNH Cooperative Extension Web site and on UNH Cooperative Extension's YouTube site, where it has been viewed over 1,000 times.

The network of Extension resources available to Carroll County through the national Extension system provides additional information for livestock and dairy producers. In response to requests for information to help small poultry flock owners manage diseases, an eight factsheet series of small flock management was developed by Tina Savage and reviewed by Dr. Mike Darre, University of Connecticut professor and Extension poultry specialist. In addition to this information, there is a web-based situational scenario or "web-quest" to help prospective small flock owners learn the basics of raising poultry flocks for meat and egg production and teach them where to find accurate research based resources on the Internet. The web-quest can be found on the UNH Cooperative Extension Web site at <http://extension.unh.edu/Agric/AGDLEP/Poultry/chickens.htm>.

The workshops, "First Aid for Livestock, What to Do until the Vet Arrives," took place in seven locations across New Hampshire, one in Carroll County, to provide livestock owners basic healthcare techniques and bio-security measures to keep herds and flocks healthy. These workshops were attended by Carroll County livestock, dairy, and poultry producers.

How We Make a Difference:

Providing small and backyard farmers the information they need to keep their flocks and herds healthy protects not only their investment, but gives them the tools they need to keep their animals productive and healthy. While there is no substitute for proper veterinary medical attention, having the knowledge and ability to help animals in the event of an emergency protects not only these small flocks/herds but the entire animal industry of New Hampshire. With a better understanding of basic flock/herd management, producers can reduce losses due to death and disease. Proper housing, parasite management and disease prevention increase efficiency and profitability.

- Eighty-three percent of those attending "First Aid for Livestock, What to Do until the Vet Arrives" series said they increased their knowledge about what to do for common injuries in livestock, 81 percent increased their knowledge about bio-security measures, and 90 percent said they learned more about common diseases and disorders in livestock. All participants received information about what they should have on hand in an animal first-aid and bio-security kit. Participant comments include:
 - *"That Emergency First Aid kit I won came in handy. I had an old ewe bearing triplets who came down with a classic case of ketosis. Used that big syringe and some other things. Solved the problem and delivered a nice set of triplets."*
 - *"I really enjoyed the workshop you put together. I have used most all of the information for my 4-H clubs. I didn't win one of the kits but you inspired me to get a kit put together to use as an award. I even got a local hardware store to donate a tool box and a mail order supply company donated all of the things inside. The family that received the award was really grateful."*

Over the past several years, Extension specialists and Tina Savage have made visits to livestock and dairy operations to discuss land use, building construction, and farm management strategies. Examples of impacts in Carroll County:

- With Extension Specialist John Porter and Agricultural Engineer Stan Weeks, in the last three years, farm visits and consultations resulted in the design and construction of manure storage facilities, livestock housing, feeding and farmstead layouts on four farm operations in the county. This design assistance and practical advice are provided at no cost to the farm.
- Mike Sciabarassi, Extension Specialist/Professor and Savage worked to help a small farm complete a farm management plan that helped them have the information they needed to purchase their farm land.

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