Agritourism on U.S. Goat Operations

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Agritourism and One Health

What is agritourism?

Benefits and Risks
*Texas and Oklahoma were divided on a line corresponding to north-south Interstate 35. The western halves of the States were included in the West region, and the eastern halves were included in the East region.

24 States represent:
- 83% U.S. goats
- 78% U.S. goat farms with 5+ goats
Biologic samples

**Fecal Samples**
- Fecal egg count reduction test
- *E. coli, Salmonella, Campylobacter, Enterococcus, Giardia, Cryptosporidium*

**Blood Samples**
- Scrapie resistance genotyping
- Serum and DNA stored for future research

**Swab Samples**
- Nasal: *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* testing
- Vaginal: *Coxiella burnetii* testing
On-site Agritourism Questionnaire

86 operations completed the On-Site Agritourism Questionnaire
Percentage of Visitor Days and Visitors by Month, 2018-2019

Kidding season for many operations
64.0% of agritourism operations had designated parking for visitors away from regular farm traffic.

34.5% of operations have a designated parking area located downhill from any animal facilities, manure storage areas, or crop fields that were fertilized with animal manure.

40.0% of operations have designated parking that share a fence line with an animal pen or pasture.
Percent of Operations by Access to the Listed Areas

- **General goat housing areas**: 80.2%
- **Milking areas**: 57.0%
- **Feed or hay storage areas**: 54.7%
- **Kidding areas**: 48.8%
- **Manure piles/storage areas**: 27.9%

*Not applicable was a response option for milking areas and kidding areas. 25.6% of operations did not have milking areas, and 10.5% of operations did not have kidding areas.*

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Veterinary Services   Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
Percent of Operations by Goat Types Available for Public Interaction

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goat Type</th>
<th>Percent Operations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Newborn kids</td>
<td>38.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preweaned kids</td>
<td>87.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weaned kids</td>
<td>91.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does that are kidding</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other adult goats</td>
<td>94.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other animals</td>
<td>73.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Most often restricted on operations and more likely to spread zoonotic pathogens
Feeding Goats

53.5% of operations allowed visitors to feed goats.
Transition Areas and Visitor Flow

53.5% of operations had a defined transition area (physical or conceptual) between animal and non-animal areas.
Percentage of operations that **required policies**, by type of policy:

- Prohibit any food, drinks, or water bottles in the animal areas: 46.5%
- Prohibit strollers in the animal areas: 46.5%
- Prohibit smoking in the barn: 86.0%
- Require supervision of children in animal areas: 89.5%
- Require that hands be washed after contact with animals: 60.5%
- Require use of footbaths: 7.0%
- Any of the listed policies: 96.5%
Visitor Risk Communication

Percentage of operations that warn visitors regarding risks, by type of risk:

- **Risk of placing anything in the visitor’s mouth once entering the animal areas**: 53.5%
- **Health risks related to touching animals**: 41.9%
- **Physical safety risks related to touching animals**: 74.4%
- **Higher health risks in certain populations**: 25.6%
- **Any of the listed risks**: 83.7%
Hand Washing and Hand Sanitizing Stations

- Hand washing only: 25.6%
- Hand sanitizing only: 11.6%
- Both hand washing and hand sanitizing: 45.3%
- Neither hand washing or hand sanitizing: 17.4%
Hand Washing Stations

70.9% of operations had hand-washing stations with soap and water available to visitors when they exit the goat visitor areas.

Hot and Cold Water at the Station
73.8%

Average Times per Day Stations were Checked
1.6 times/day
Cleaning and Disinfection Procedures

3.5 times/week

on average, goat visitor areas were cleaned of manure and debris

Percent Operations by Frequency of Disinfection of the Goat Visitor Areas

- After every cleaning, 18.6%
- Several times per year, 12.8%
- Once per year, 11.6%
- Only when sick animals have been removed, 3.5%
- Other, 2.3%
- Never disinfected, 51.2%
Removal of Sick Goats from Visitor Areas

**Percent of Operations** by Action Taken in the Event of an Abortion in the Goat Visitor Area

- Remove aborting doe from goat visitor area, 35.2%
- Close the goat visitor area, 51.9%
- Leave goats in visitor area, 13.0%

*Percent operations is calculated from the 65.1% of operations that included pregnant does in the goat visitor areas

**Percent of Operations by Action Taken in the Event of a Goat Becoming Ill in the Goat Visitor Area with Something other than Abortion (for example, diarrhea)**

- Remove sick animal(s) from the area(s) open to visitors, 44.2%
- Leave kids or goats in the area(s) open to visitors, 12.8%
- Close the goat visitor area, 43.0%
Food and Drink Available to Visitors

32.6% of operations had food or drink available for visitors as samples or to purchase.

- 10.7% served food and drink in an area where animals have ever been kept or where there is possible contact with animals.
- 39.3% served unpasteurized products, such as milk, cheese, yogurt, or fruit juice.
- 82.1% had hand-washing stations with soap and water available to farm visitors at the entry to the food service area.
- 46.4% had hand sanitizer available to visitors in the food service area.
Insurance Policies

57.0% of operations that had met with an insurance agent about protecting their farm through policies for an agritourism operation.

83.7% of operations that met with an insurance agent have added policies specific to public visitation on their farm.
Conclusion
Infographics and Infobriefs

Available on the NAHMS website in English and Spanish (https://www.aphis.usda.gov/nahms)

Contact me if you would like printed copies to share: natalie.j.urie@usda.gov
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- Louisiana State University
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