

THE BLEAT

A UGA Extension Newsletter for Georgia Sheep and Goat Producers

September 1, 2019
Cecilia's first show is the Georgia Sheep and Goat Show from October 1-3 at the Georgia State Fairgrounds in Columbus, GA. It is the largest and oldest show in the Southeast. Cecilia's first show was the Georgia Sheep and Goat Show from October 1-3 at the Georgia State Fairgrounds in Columbus, GA. It is the largest and oldest show in the Southeast. Cecilia's first show was the Georgia Sheep and Goat Show from October 1-3 at the Georgia State Fairgrounds in Columbus, GA. It is the largest and oldest show in the Southeast.

Lamb and Goat Show Season Is In Full Swing!

By Caitlin Jackson
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Monroe County

BODY CONDITION SCORING

WATER REQUIREMENTS AND QUALITY ISSUES FOR SMALL RUMINANTS

Body condition is the fat and muscle covering of an animal. For goats and sheep, body condition is scored on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being emaciated (a walking skeleton) and 5 being obese. To properly body condition score small ruminants, it is important to put your hands on them, especially for sheep with wool or hair sheep or goats.

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Body condition score (BCS) ratings

- **BCS 1.0** = The animal is visually emaciated and weak. The backbone is highly visible and forms a continuous ridge, individual bones can be felt on the top and sides of the backbone. The area between the top and sides of the backbone is bone with skin covering, dipping down. The flank is hollow and ribs are clearly visible. There is no fat cover and fingers can easily fall in between the ribs.
- **BCS 2.0** = The backbone is still visible with a continuous ridge and easily felt on either side. The area along the top of the backbone is still mostly bone with some muscle starting to form. Some ribs can be seen and there is a small amount of fat cover. Ribs are still felt and though it is smooth between them, the fingers can still easily fall between them.
- **BCS 3.0** = The backbone is not prominent, and between them is still thin. The space between the top and sides of the backbone has muscle and some fat cover. The ribs are barely seen and when felt, there is an even layer of fat over them. Space between the ribs can be felt with some pressure.
- **BCS 4.0** = The backbone and ribs cannot be seen or felt. The topline feels level or 'flat'. The side of the animal is sleek in appearance.
- **BCS 5.0** = The backbone is buried in fat, there may be a dip where the backbone should be and the ribs are not visible and cannot be felt. The rib cage is covered with excessive fat.

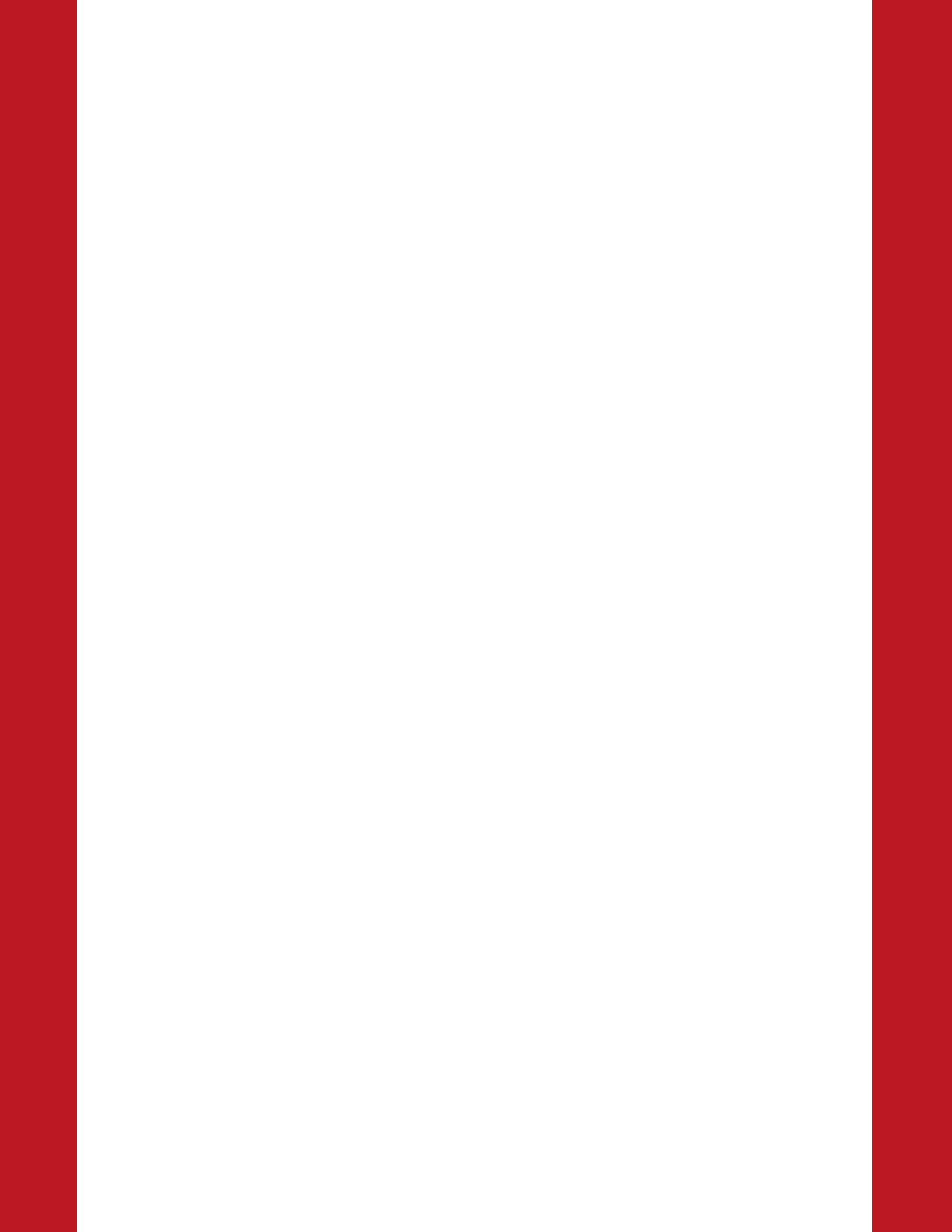
Reference:

https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/body_condition_score_in_cows

For more information, contact your local County Extension Office or Fort Valley State University Cooperative Extension program (478-825-6296).

OUTREACH FVSU PROGRAMS

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LAMB GYROS AND TAZIKI SAUCE

MALES
PROVIDE
GENETICS TO
ALL
OFFSPRING...IT
IS IMPORTANT
TO CHOOSE
THE BEST
(PERFORMING)
ANIMAL YOU
CAN AFFORD

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