



Keeping Diseases off your Farm

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There are many small ruminants (sheep and goat) farms in Northeast Florida. Movements of people, vehicles and equipment among farms are common. These activities can spread diseases from farm to farm unknowingly. If you wish to maintain a healthy herd of goats or a flock of sheep you may wish to consider implementing a biosecurity protocol on your farm. The following can serve as a basis for a biosecurity protocol:

- ❖ Control traffic on and off your farm by discouraging unnecessary visitors.
- ❖ Purchase healthy livestock from trusted or reputable suppliers.
- ❖ Isolate the animals you purchased for a minimum of two (2) weeks.
- ❖ Buy quality feeds.
- ❖ If an animal becomes sick, separate it from the healthy animals.
- ❖ Dead stock should be removed immediately from other animals and disposed off (burying) according to Union County and State regulations.
- ❖ Send the dead animal to a veterinary diagnostic laboratory to confirm cause of death, if you suspect a reportable disease.
- ❖ Keep all equipment, buildings, and the surrounding areas clean.
- ❖ Use disinfectants and detergents on equipment when required.
- ❖ Control or eliminate vermin.
- ❖ Make a concerted effort to protect your feed and water supplies from fecal contamination, especially by wildlife.