

Online Training Program for FAMACHA[®] Certification



Use of the FAMACHA[®] system allows small ruminant producers to make deworming decisions based on an estimate of the the level of anemia in sheep and goats associated with barber pole worm (*Haemonchus contortus*) infection. The barber pole worm is the most economically important parasite affecting sheep and goat production on pasture and the most common cause of anemia during the grazing season in most of the U.S. It has a small “tooth” that lacerates the animal’s stomach (abomasum) wall, and it feeds on the blood that is released. This can result in anemia, (reduction below normal in the number of red cells in the blood) and in severe cases, death.

The FAMACHA[®] card, developed in South Africa, was introduced to the U.S. by the American Consortium for Small Ruminant Parasite Control (www.acsrpc.org). It is a tool that matches the color of the eye mucous membranes of small ruminants with a laminated color chart showing 5 color categories that correspond to different levels of anemia. Category 1 represents “not anemic” with category 5 representing “severely anemic.” The FAMACHA[®] system uses the scores determined with the card to identify and selectively deworm sheep and goats with anemia. Selective deworming minimizes drug use and slows the development of drug resistant GIN parasites. It can also aid in selective breeding decisions by identifying those animals that are most susceptible to barber pole worm infection.

Online FAMACHA[®] certification can be obtained through a 4-step process:

1. View our 2 hour video on Integrated Parasite Control and our 30 minute video, *Why and How To Do FAMACHA[®] Scoring*. Visit our website, <http://web.uri.edu/sheepngoat/video> to access these videos. The videos can be viewed in sections at your own pace. Complete an online post-video summary administered through SurveyMonkey. Email project staff

(see last page for contact information) to obtain the link to the summary and to notify when you have completed it. Project staff will review responses to the online post-video summary and follow up with producers if any clarification is needed.

2. Practice the COVER, PUSH, PULL, POP! technique demonstrated in the online video, *Why and How To Do FAMACHA[®] Scoring*. This technique allows you to correctly use your FAMACHA[®] card for anemia scoring. To mimic a FAMACHA[®] card, cut an index card or other stiff paper or cardboard to 3.5 X 4.5 inches. Using a red marker, draw a thick (1/2 inch) red line on the long side of the card.
3. Make and email us a video demonstrating your mastery of the COVER, PUSH, PULL, POP! technique following the instructions below:
 - You will need help making the video, so enlist a friend or family member.
 - To start – introduce yourself to us by stating your name, date and that you are demonstrating the proper handling of the animals for FAMACHA[®] scoring.
 - Demonstrate the correct procedure on a sheep or goat. Make sure that you zoom in to provide an easy to see close-up of the COVER, PUSH, PULL, POP! technique on both eyes. Proper exposure of the eye mucous membranes must be evident from the video. An easy way to tell if you are using enough pressure when you COVER and PUSH is that you should see that the eyelashes of the upper eyelid are curling up over your thumb.
 - Hold the card next to the mucous membranes and state whether the color is darker than, lighter than or the same color as the red line on your card.
 - Be sure to demonstrate the technique in natural light and be careful that you do not shade the eyes with your body while exposing the membranes and remember to do both eyes.
 - Repeat the procedure on a second sheep or goat.
4. Project staff will follow up through phone and/or email, as needed, to discuss and ensure proper technique. Live video sessions using Skype™ or FaceTime can be utilized when needed.

Upon completing the 4-step online training program listed above, the participant will receive a Certificate of Competence in the use of the FAMACHA[®] anemia scoring system. The certificate will enable participants to purchase a FAMACHA[®] card through the University of Rhode Island (contact information below). The price of the FAMACHA[®] card is subject to change. The current cost for each card is \$13.00 and can be paid using cash or a check made payable to: **The**

University of Rhode Island. Payment can be mailed as follows:

Attention: Holly Burdett, URI Cooperative Extension
120 Flagg Road, CBLS Room 383
Kingston, RI 02881

Visit our website for additional information, resources and programs including workshops and events on integrated small ruminant parasite control at <http://web.uri.edu/sheepngoat>.

Contacts for Online FAMACHA[®] Certification:

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