

Birth Management for Sheep and Goats 2025

- Would you like to improve the birth management of your herd or flock? The MSU Small Ruminant Extension team is offering a 4-part webinar series on birth management and separate workshop that will blend applied science and years of practical experience on a comprehensive set of topics that will help you improve your birth management skills. **Participants will learn preventative approaches, assessment skills, and treatment procedures.** Both novice and veteran producers alike will find this program valuable. Because of the amount and depth of information presented, participants have found attending this program more than once to be useful.
- Each weekly 2-hour session allows time to ask questions and will be recorded for future viewing. In addition, there will be a final, 4-h hands-on session held at the MSU sheep teaching and research center in East Lansing, MI. This final session is a workshop that focuses on practical skills related to birth management. You can attend the virtual sessions without attending the face-to-face session if you prefer.
- **Virtual sessions.** Each session will feature seminars, specialized instructional videos, and question & answer sessions with an expert panel to cover each of these topics (live sessions are 7- 9 pm each Wednesday evening with each session recorded, including questions & answer components):
 - ✓ **Jan 2 (Thursday):** *“Nutritional management to optimize birth outcomes in sheep and goats.”*
 - ✓ **Jan 8 (Wednesday):** *“Optimizing maternal and newborn health: parasite control, vaccination schedules, treating complications at birth, providing a healthy environment.”*
 - ✓ **Jan 15 (Wednesday):** *“The normal birth process, birth assistance and newborn care.”*
 - ✓ **Jan 22 (Wednesday):** *“Identifying challenges on your farm and creating an improvement plan addressing health management, nutrition and facility improvements.”*
- **Birth management workshop at MSU sheep teaching and research center.**
 - ✓ **Jan. 25, noon-4 pm:** Hands-on demonstrations of newborn care and processing, bonding management, ultrasound diagnosis of pregnancy and diagnosis of newborn mortality. This is a supplemental workshop to demonstrate procedures used in birth management. The demonstration material presented in the workshop will also be covered in the virtual sessions. Please register for this event as a stand-alone item below. Warm drinks and light snacks will be available.
- **Instructors:** Richard Ehrhardt Ph.D., Senior Extension Specialist; Mike Metzger M.S., Extension educator; Barbara Makela, Research technician and Erin Recktenwald Ph.D., Research associate
- **Webinar registration (ends Sunday Dec. 29):** \$40/farm or family and includes supplemental educational materials including a 90+ page bound compendium/resource manual and a laminated newborn hypothermia/starvation treatment poster as well as access to all recorded sessions (additional members of the same farm/ family may receive additional manuals and posters for \$20 per set). All supplemental materials will be mailed right after the first session (participants from outside the USA will need to pay extra postage). Contact Mike Metzger for more details (phone: 517-788-4292; email: metzgerm@msu.edu). **Late registration** (after Dec. 29): \$60/farm.
- **Jan 25 Workshop Registration (ends Sunday Jan 12):** \$10/person

Registration is online only, and it may be completed at:

<https://events.anr.msu.edu/smallruminantbirthmanagement/>

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