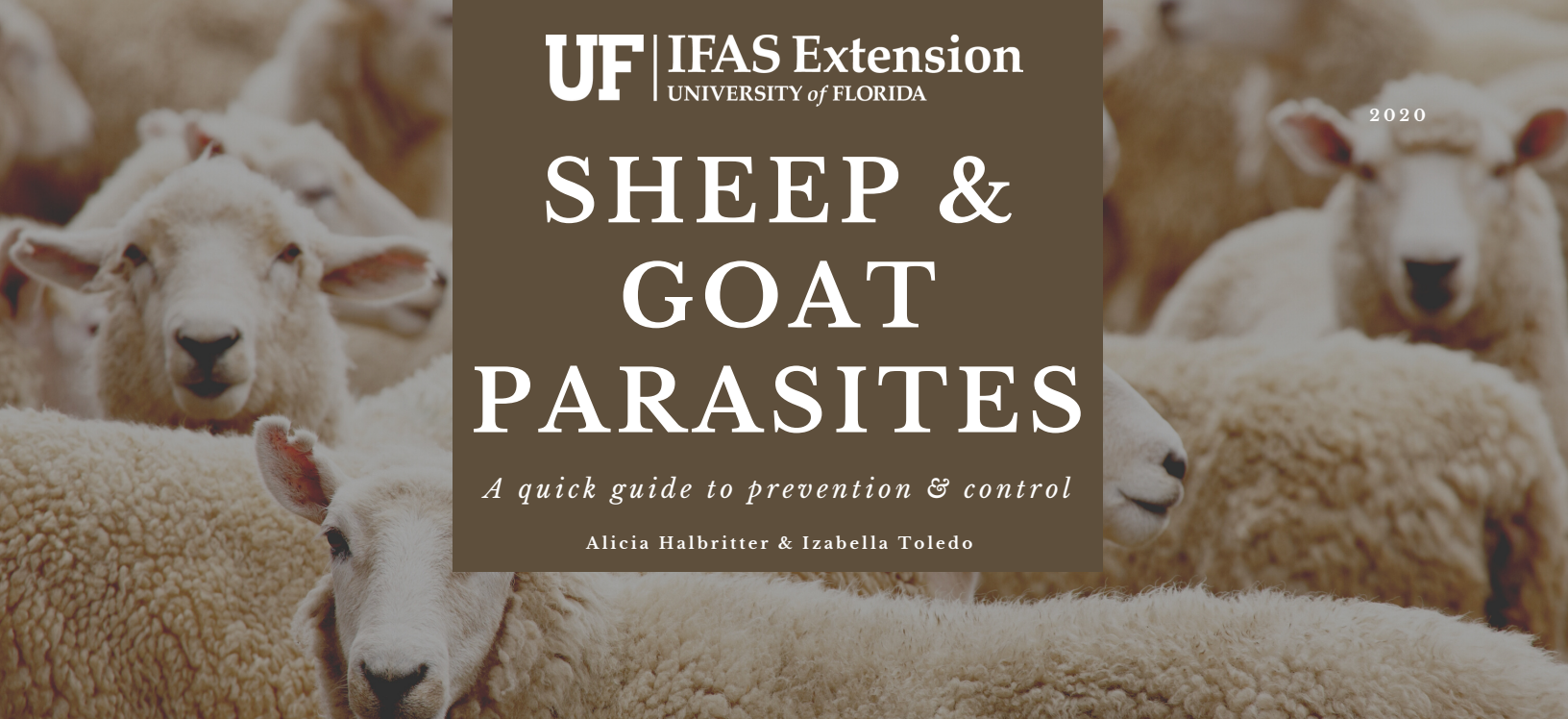


SHEEP & GOAT PARASITES

A quick guide to prevention & control

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LICE

Lice are a blood sucking and skin feeding external pest. There are nine species of lice that can affect sheep/goat in Florida. Animals affected with lice will exhibit excessive scratching and potentially hair loss. Insecticides will not control louse eggs. Usually, it is necessary to perform two treatments, 14 days apart, to control lice.



FLIES

Flies can be an irritant to animals, especially on the legs and face. However, the most notable fly issue with sheep and goats is the Nose Bot Fly. This biting fly infests and lays their eggs in the nostrils. The fly larvae will travel up the nostril and feed on mucous membranes. Currently, an ivermectin oral drench is the only available treatment.



MITES/FLEAS

Mites and fleas cause irritation and itching on the skin. Scab mites and sticktight fleas are the most common of this pest type to infect sheep and goats. Infestations can usually be seen around the face and ears. Due to the life cycle of these pests, retreatment is often necessary for more complete control.

For external parasite product recommendations visit: <https://www.veterinaryentomology.org/>

INTERNAL PARASITES

All grazing animals are susceptible to internal parasite infections. Barber pole worms, the most common stomach worm of sheep and goats, are blood-sucking parasites that can cause anemia, weight loss, and lethargy in infected animals. Level of infection in your herd can easily be determined using fecal egg counts or the FAMACHA system, which estimates anemia levels using the inner eyelid.

Internal parasite infections can be mildly prevented using proper grazing management strategies. Allowing a rest period before re-grazing an area can kill off parasite loads and reduce your herds chance of infection. If infection does occur and treatment is deemed necessary, an oral drench dewormer will be required. Injectable dewormers are not generally recommended for small ruminants. Pour-on dewormers should not be used as they do not absorb properly through wool/hair. Always consult your veterinarian to determine the best treatment methods.

