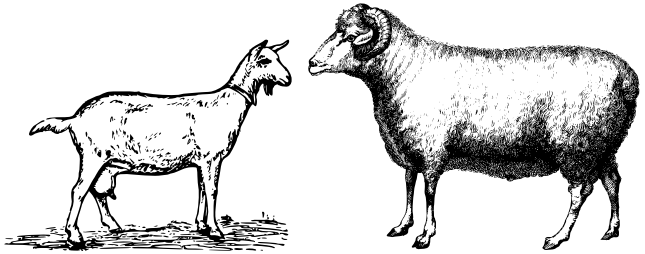
Research-based solutions for every need

Small Ruminants Program

VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION



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A Protocol for Breeding Sheep and Goats Outside of the Normal Breeding Season

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BREEDING OUT OF SEASON

Also known as fall-breeders, small ruminants like sheep and goats reproduce between Sept - Feb. If you're looking to breed your sheep and goats outside of this timeframe, the research team here at VSU developed a device to help.

Traditionally, if you want to breed an animal out of season, you use progesterone and/or light treatment, which isn't always practical. Progesterone tricks the body into thinking that it's pregnant. When you stop administering progesterone and it leaves the system, the female will start cycling again and enter estrus within 24 - 48 hours.

Figure 3. CIDR device and loaded applicator. (Reprinted by permission from Stephen Wildeus. 2005).

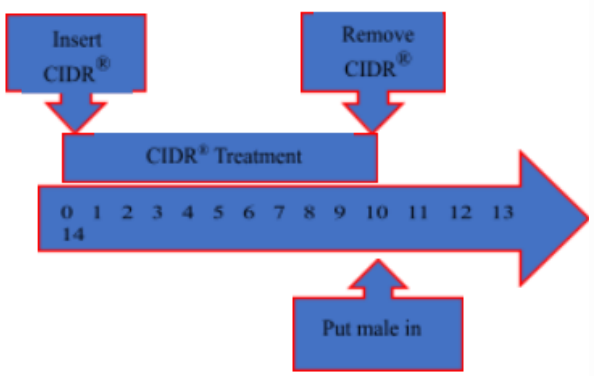

Figure 2. Estrus induction and synchronization protocol in ewes and does.

Controlled Internal Drug-Releasing Device "CIDR"

The VSU team developed an internal device, called a "controlled internal drug-releasing device", or CIDR (figure 3), that administers progesterone. Called "progesterone priming", we recommend leaving the internal device in place for 8-12 days, or longer if you're outside the normal breeding season. This will give you best results with your artificial insemination protocols.

How does it work?

It's a silicone insert with a special applicator to insert the device into the vagina. Currently, CIDR is FDA-approved for use in sheep, and pending for use in goats

Look at Figure 2 on the left. On Day 0, you insert the device, and remove it on Day 10.
On Day 10, introduce a male with a marking harness to the area (no more than 1 mature male: 20 females).

Males experience fertility variation based on the seasons, too, so have your veterinarian examine the male about a month prior to assess libido and fertility. On day 30, remove the male.

Step-By-Step Guide

CIDR® Insertion

1. Wearing gloves, restrain the ewe/doe and clean her backside.
2. Fold the wings of the CIDR implant, and push it tail-end first into the applicator until it fully fits (figure 3).
3. Place a small amount of obstetric lubricant on the tip of the applicator, open the vulva, and gently insert the applicator at a 35 - 45 degree angle (figure 4, below).
4. Once fully inserted, squeeze the finger grip on the applicator to release the insert into the vagina.
5. Pull the applicator back and remove from the vagina. The tail of the insert should be visible, pointing downward.

CIDR® Removal

1. To remove CIDR, gently pull on the exposed tail of the insert.
2. If the insert tail isn't visible, check the vagina with a gloved and lubricated finger to see if it has moved forward, or turned.

Note that while rare, inserts can be lost if not placed securely in the vagina.

Figure 4. Loaded CIDR applicator inserted into vagina. (Reprinted by permission from Dahlia O'Brien. 2009).