

Use of Veterinarians on Sheep Operations-EXAMPLE

August 2020

NAHMS Goat Study 2019

A HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF GOAT PRODUCERS ARE CONSULTING VETERINARIANS

39.5%

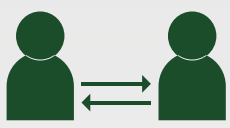
2009

49.7%

2019

Percent of operations that Consulted a Veterinarian

25.8%



From 2009 to 2019 **veterinarian consultations increased** by 25.8%.

A higher percentage of producers on large operations (59.5%) than on small operations (45%) consulted a veterinarian. A higher percentage of dairy producers (61.8%) than meat or other producers (47.1% and 46.8% respectively) consulted a veterinarian.


PRODUCER-VETERINARIAN RELATIONSHIPS ARE EVOLVING

60.6%

of producers that consulted veterinarians, **used electronics** (e.g., phone, text, email) to **consult veterinarians**.


37.1%

of producers that consulted veterinarians, **only consulted a veterinarian by electronic means** (e.g., phone, text, email).



62.9%

of producers had a **veterinarian visit their operation**.



REASONS FOR CONSULTING A VETERINARIAN


57.9%

emergency visits

46.8%

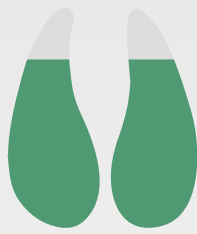
regular/routine visits

2.7% of producers are veterinarians.




REASONS FOR NOT CONSULTING A VETERINARIAN

82%




No veterinarian needed

8%




Too expensive

6%




Local veterinarian is not knowledgeable about goats

2%



No local veterinarian

2%



Other

A higher percentage of producers on operations with a primary production of “other” reported not needing a veterinarian compared with producers on operations that primarily produced meat.

VETERINARIANS ARE TRUSTED PARTNERS


54.6%

of producers have at least heard of the term **veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR)**.

22.2%

of operations described their VCPR as a formal agreement with their veterinarian, meaning **it was a written document or a verbal agreement**.

A veterinarian-client-patient relationship (VCPR) plays an important role in animal health in many states, it is required by law so that a veterinarian can diagnose, treat, and prescribe medication to animals. The definition of a VCPR may vary by state. A VCPR has occurred when the client (owner or care taker) of (an) animal(s) has agreed to have a veterinarian diagnose and possibly treat the animal(s). The veterinarian should be familiar with the animal(s) from recent examination, have knowledge of the keeping and care of the animal(s), or have recently visited the premise where the animal(s) are kept during a medically appropriate and timely visit.



Herd size (number of goats and kids): small (5-19 head), medium (20-99 head), large (100 or more head)

Dairy refers to operations that primarily produce milk.

Meat refers to operations that primarily raised goats marketed for consumption.

Other refers to operations that primarily raised goats for other reasons.

For a more detailed briefing on this study and full report, visit:  
[https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/monitoring-and-surveillance/nahms/nahms\\_goat\\_studies](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/monitoring-and-surveillance/nahms/nahms_goat_studies)

• Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service •