Good Morning Gator Nation!!!

And just like that, the first half of the school year is over. We do not have a too many items to go out, here are our updates for the week:

* **Washing Out Feed Buckets**
* **Holiday Break Gate Access**
* **Ag Teacher Holiday Schedule**
* **Conserving Shavings Bunk Space**
* **Dickinson FFA Alumni – Interest Meeting**
* **Breeders / Jocks / Fitters**
* **Lamb & Goat Barn Situation**

**Activity Calendar**



**FFA Meeting / Specie Clinic / Stock Show Calendar**



**Weather**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  |  |  |  |  | **12/15**56° / 65° | **12/16**42° / 63° |
| **12/17**42° / 64° | **12/18**51° / 61° | **12/19**46° / 66° | **12/20**59° / 67° | **12/21**59° / 67° | **12/22**59° / 67° | **12/23**58° / 70° |

**Washing Out Feed Buckets**

This is a reminder that **feed buckets, pans, etc. are specifically prohibited from being washed out in any washrack, regardless of specie!** Any/all old feed needs to be disposed of in the shavings bunk. If you need to wash your feed containers out, you must do so at the hose in the wheelbarrow corral only.

**Holiday Break Gate Access**

Holiday Break Barn Access Hours will be Monday-Friday 5AM – 11PM. The weekend schedule remained unchanged from 3AM to 11PM. Request have been submitted for proxy card( barn keys) and lighting to be changed to this schedule.

**Ag Teacher Holiday Schedule**

Ag Teachers will be visiting the barn daily over the course of the holiday break, though it will be on a rotating schedule. Please bring any concerns or maintenance issues to us. I will be out of State from the 21st-26th, but you can still reach me via text/e-mail.

**Conserving Shavings Bunk Space**

We need everyone to do their best with dumping wheel barrows, buckets, etc. as far back into the bunk as possible. As mentioned, there will be teachers visiting the barn daily throughout the break, but on the actual holidays in specific the tractor will not be run. Everyone knows the shavings bunk can fill up and spill out into the parking lot very quickly. Do your part in helping us maintain the facility and dump your shavings as far back as you possibly can to prevent making a huge mess.

**Dickinson FFA Alumni – Interest Meeting**

We will be holding an Interest Meeting for forming a Dickinson FFA Alumni Association. This will take place on the evening of Wednesday, 10 January 2024, at the same time as the Chapter FFA Meeting. Please note that being a former FFA Member, or a graduate of Dickinson High School are NOT REQUIREMENTS. If you are interested in attending please complete the following form:

<https://forms.gle/fVYTUk2GFV7VGBLx8>

**Breeders / Jocks / Fitters**

With showtimes getting closer we anticipate having heightened amount traffic in the barn with exhibitor’s Breeders, Jocks, and Fitters making visits. Please be sure and coordinate with your specie advisor if you have one of these persons making a visit to the facility. It is important that we maintain situational awareness and barn security, especially with the transition away from all of the construction traffic on the near horizon.

If you have breeders, jocks, or fitters coming in they must have paperwork on file with us.  We also need to verify their background checks are current, as these do expire on an annual basis. If you did breeder contracts last year, we will honor those, we just need to make sure their background checks with the district are up to date.

**Lamb & Goat Barn Situation**

Everyone should have received the notice that our Lamb & Goat advisors sent out on Wednesday evening. If not, you can find one attached to this e-mail. Please review it for specific protocols pertaining to CL and the DISD Barn Biosecurity procedures that we will be implementing. A few areas of specific note:

**Isolation and Treatment:** Positive, symptomatic goats undergoing treatment will be immediately isolated, and our veterinarian will be providing appropriate treatment to control and manage the infection.

**Increased Biosecurity Measures:** We have implemented enhanced biosecurity measures to prevent the spread of the bacteria. This includes quarantine protocols, increased sanitation practices, and limited access to the affected areas. **We ask that students who do not have a lamb or a goat stay out of the lamb/goat area, and do not use any equipment or tools utilized by the lambs and goats.**

**Education and Awareness:** We have educated our lamb and goat students on recognizing the symptoms of CL in their animals, practicing good biosecurity measures, and reporting any concerns promptly. We ask your assistance in minimizing the spread of any and all illnesses by not mixing species, and not sharing tools or equipment without proper sanitization practices.

**Monitoring and Surveillance:** Our veterinarian and ag teachers will continue to closely monitor the situation, conducting regular checks on all animals in the barn and providing updates as necessary.

Have a good and relaxing break. Let us know if you need assistance. Have a safe and relaxing break, and as always:

**GO GATORS!**



**Very Respectfully,**

**Mitch Robinson**

**Ag Science Teacher / Barn Manager**

**Dickinson High School - Dickinson ISD**

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