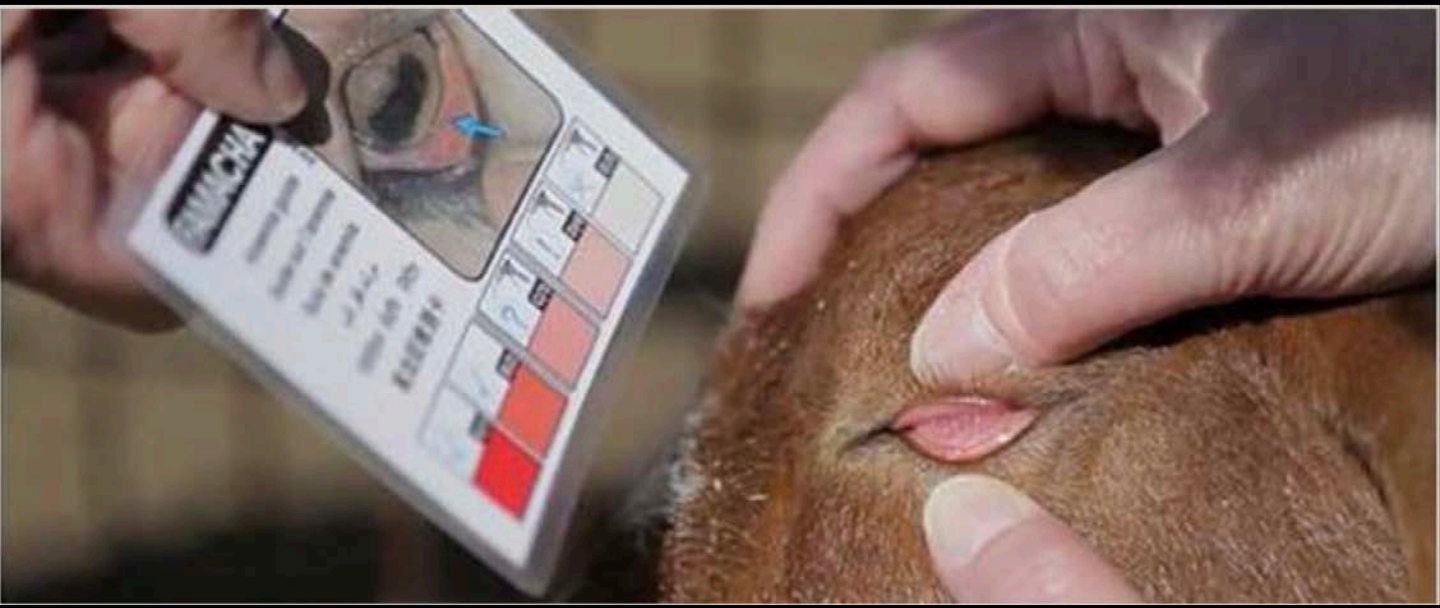




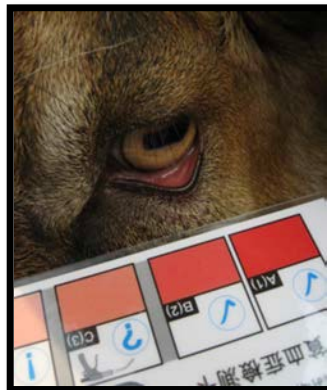
## FAMACHA



FAMACHA scoring identifies anemia in small ruminants, the main symptom of barber's pole worm infestation. Dr. Faffa Malan developed a five color FAMACHA scoring chart that corresponds to a sheep or goat's bottom eyelid color. Pale pink to white indicates anemia; the animal should be dewormed. Robust red to salmon pink indicates the animal does not require deworming at time of test.

FAMACHA is an effective and easy-to-use tool that everyone from backyard hobbyists to large-scale producers can use on the farm.

When diagnosing livestock keep in mind an animal may be anemic for another reason besides parasite infestation. Also, FAMACHA only diagnoses barber's pole worm infestations. Other worm infestations are not indicated using this tool.





Here are some Do's and Don'ts of FAMACHA© scoring.

### 1. How Often Should Sheep/Goats Be Checked?

DO: If <10% of herd/flock scores in categories 4 or 5:

Every 2 weeks during peak Haemonchus transmission season. Susceptible animals can go downhill rapidly when worm numbers are high (warm, moist conditions / summer months).

Outside of the months of peak transmission season for Haemonchus, when temperatures are cooler, this interval could be extended to 3-4 weeks.

During winter the interval can be extended, but remember that ewes/does may develop problems with the barber pole worm when lambing/kidding coincides with arrested parasites resuming development, and they should be checked more often.

DO: If >10% of flock/herd scores in categories 4 or 5:

Recheck weekly

DON'T: Wait until a problem develops to check animals with your FAMACHA© card.





## 2. Location! Location! Location!

DO: Always check eyes outside in direct, natural light. If options are limited due to handling needs, an area of the barn where natural light enters directly in the morning or afternoon (such as a door or window) is acceptable. When scoring, there does not need to be bright sunshine, but it should be performed in full daylight.

DON'T: Score your animals in the shade or under artificial light.

## 3. Technique

DO: Use proper FAMACHA® scoring technique to expose the lower eye mucous membranes and match them to the equivalent color on the FAMACHA® card (Figure 1). COVER, PUSH, PULL, POP is a 4-step process describing the proper technique.

1. COVER the eye by rolling the upper eyelid down over the eyeball.
2. PUSH down on the eyeball. An easy way to tell if you are using enough pressure is that you should see that the eyelashes of the upper eyelid are curling up over your thumb.
3. PULL down the lower eyelid.
4. POP! The mucous membranes will pop into view. Make sure that you do not score the inner surface of the lower eyelid, but rather score the bed of mucous membranes.

DO: Repeat the process with the other eye because it may be different. Use the higher score so any error is on the side of caution.

DON'T: Try to expose the membranes by just pulling down the lower eyelid.

DON'T: Use half numbers. Round up!!





### 3. Maintaining the FAMACHA© card

DO: Store in dark place when not in use because the card will fade with time.

DO: Replace card after 12 to 24 months of use (varies depending upon use and storage conditions).

DO: Keep a spare card in a location protected from light (compare with the card in use).

DON'T: Try to reproduce the FAMACHA© card colors or score from memory of the colors or by printing the card off of the internet.

For more information, including our demonstration video on FAMACHA© scoring, visit our website: <http://web.uri.edu/sheepngoat>. The video can also be viewed directly from the URI YouTube channel page (UniversityOfRI): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5rcuvVG56Q>.

