



Medicinal Grazing and Unexpected Outcomes

Introductions



Food Animal Concerns Trust (FACT) is a national nonprofit organization that works to ensure that all food-producing animals are raised in a humane and healthy manner.



Larissa McKenna & Samantha Gasson

FACT's Humane Farming Program Team

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Website: foodanimalconcernstrust.org/farmer

FACT's services to support livestock and poultry farmers include:

- **Conference scholarships** (ongoing)
- **Customized handouts** (ongoing)
- **Free webinars** (ongoing)
- **Fund-a-Farmer Grants** (not currently accepting applications)
- **Humane Farming Mentorship Program** (not currently accepting applications)
- **Financial and Business Training** (not currently accepting applications)

Our Presenter



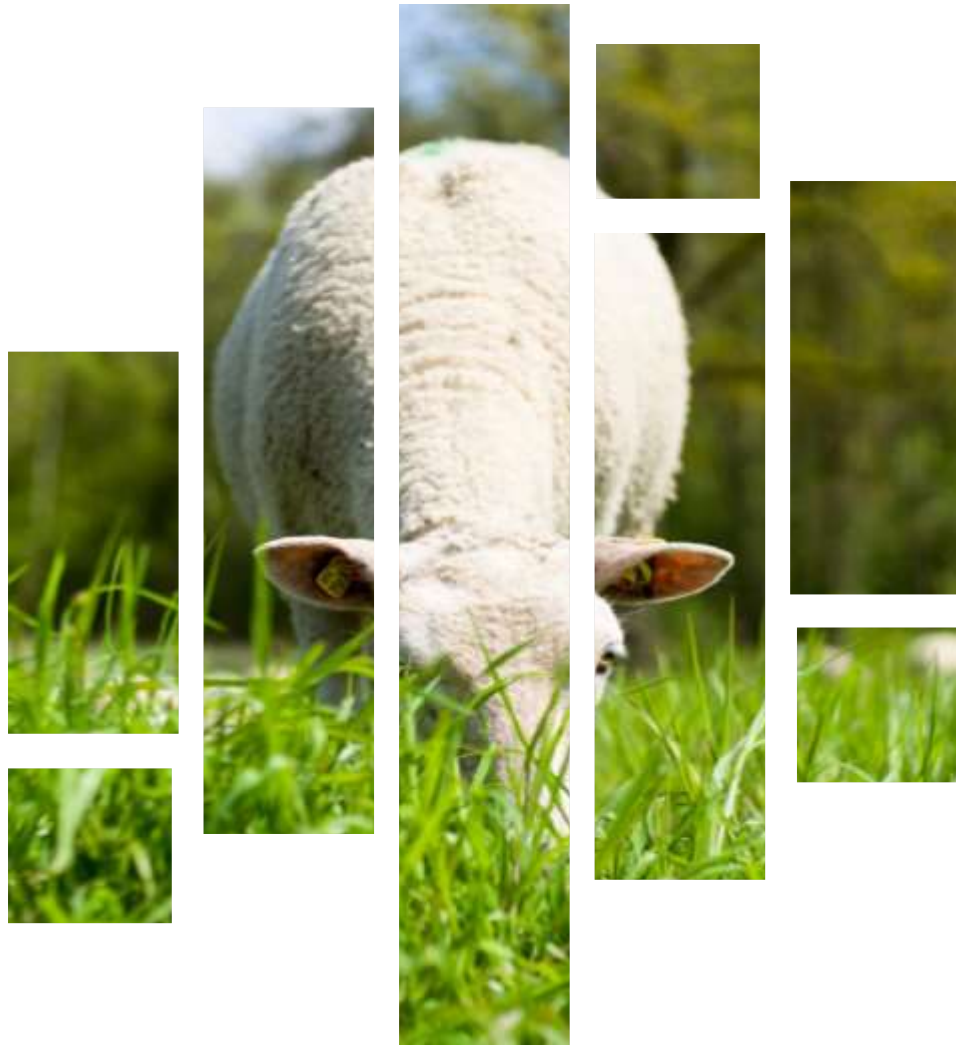
Kirsten Robertson

Pecandale Farmstead in South Carolina

Medicinal Grazing and Unexpected Outcomes



How we decommissioned our
deworming program and
enhanced our lives



Kirsten Robertson

Pecan Dale Farmstead

Pelzer, SC



Craft grazing dairy goats,
sheep, and chickens

Current Status



Current status of parasites in small ruminants

Benzimidazoles (“white” drenches, e.g. Safeguard® or Valbazen®) were ineffective on 97% of farms tested

Ivermectin (Ivomec®) was ineffective on 79% of farms

Moxidectin (Cydectin®), essentially a more potent relative of ivermectin, was ineffective on 48% of farms

Levamisole (Prohibit™), the last line of defense, was already ineffective on 27% of farms

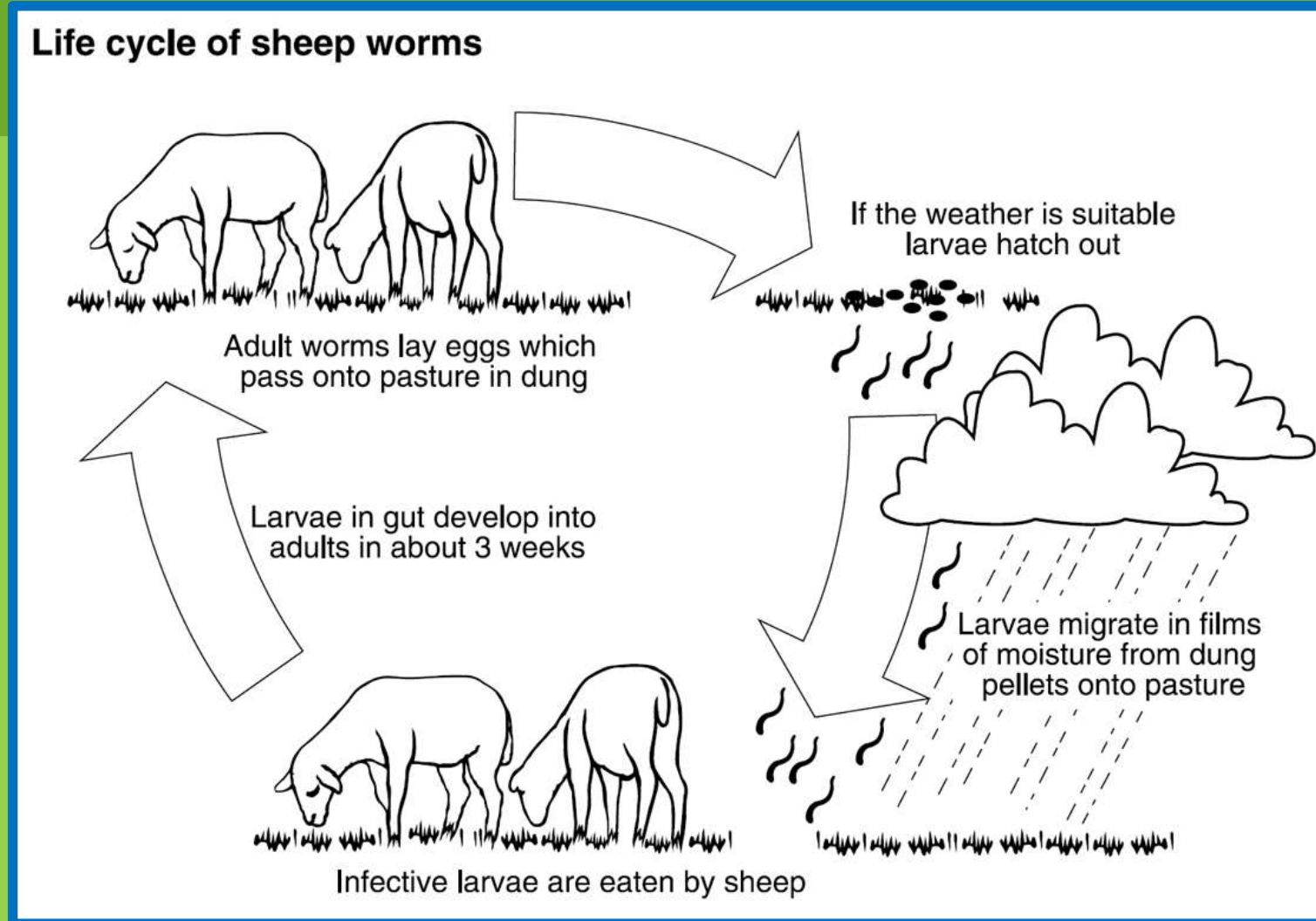
Mimic Nature



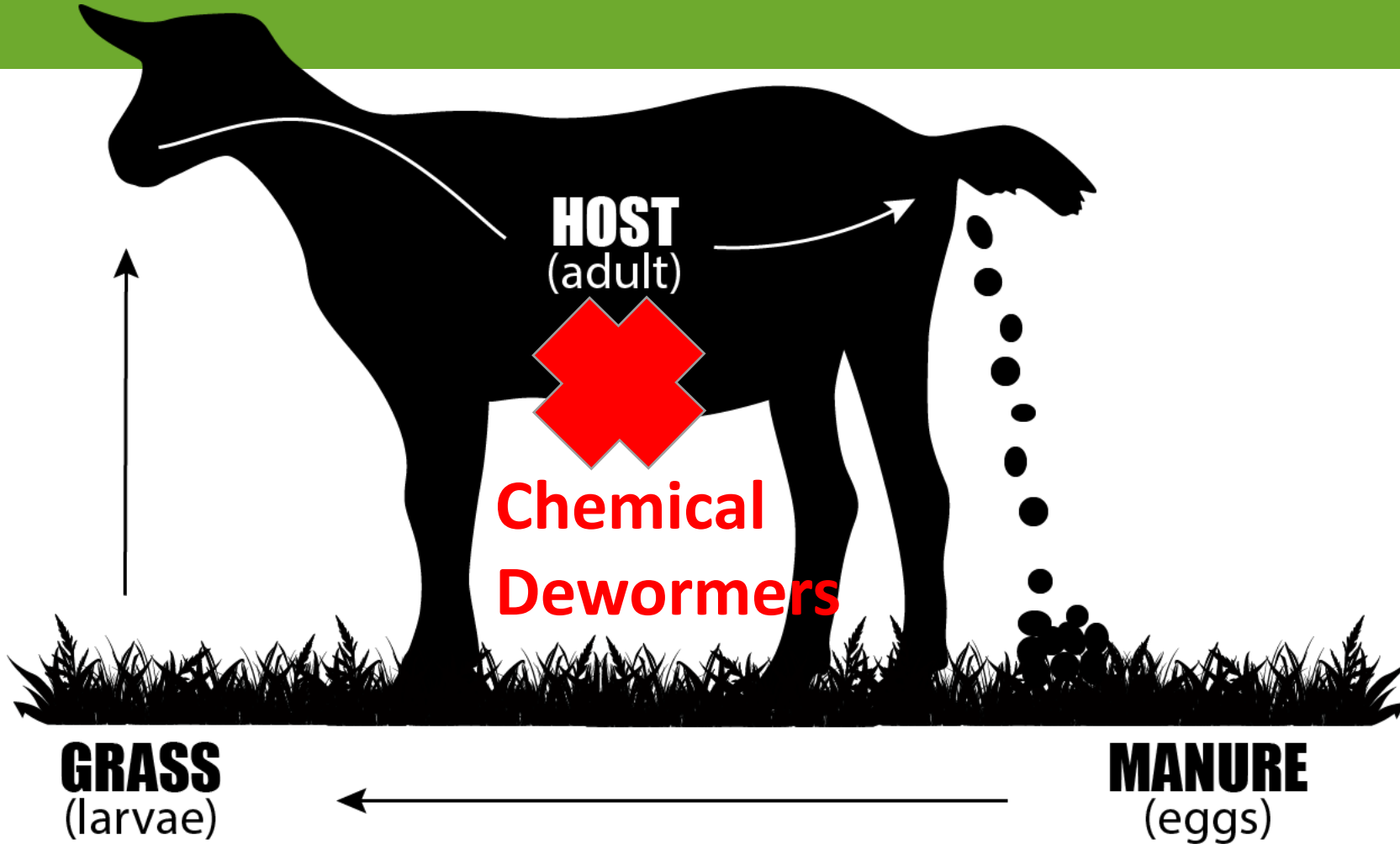
Rule Number 1: DON'T OVERSTOCK



Life Cycle of Barber's Pole Worm

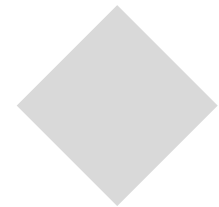
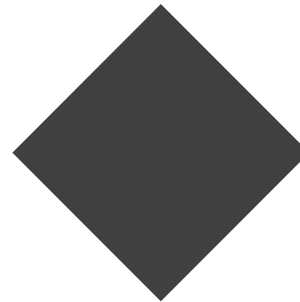
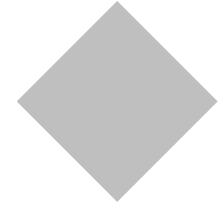


Life Cycle of Barber's Pole Worm

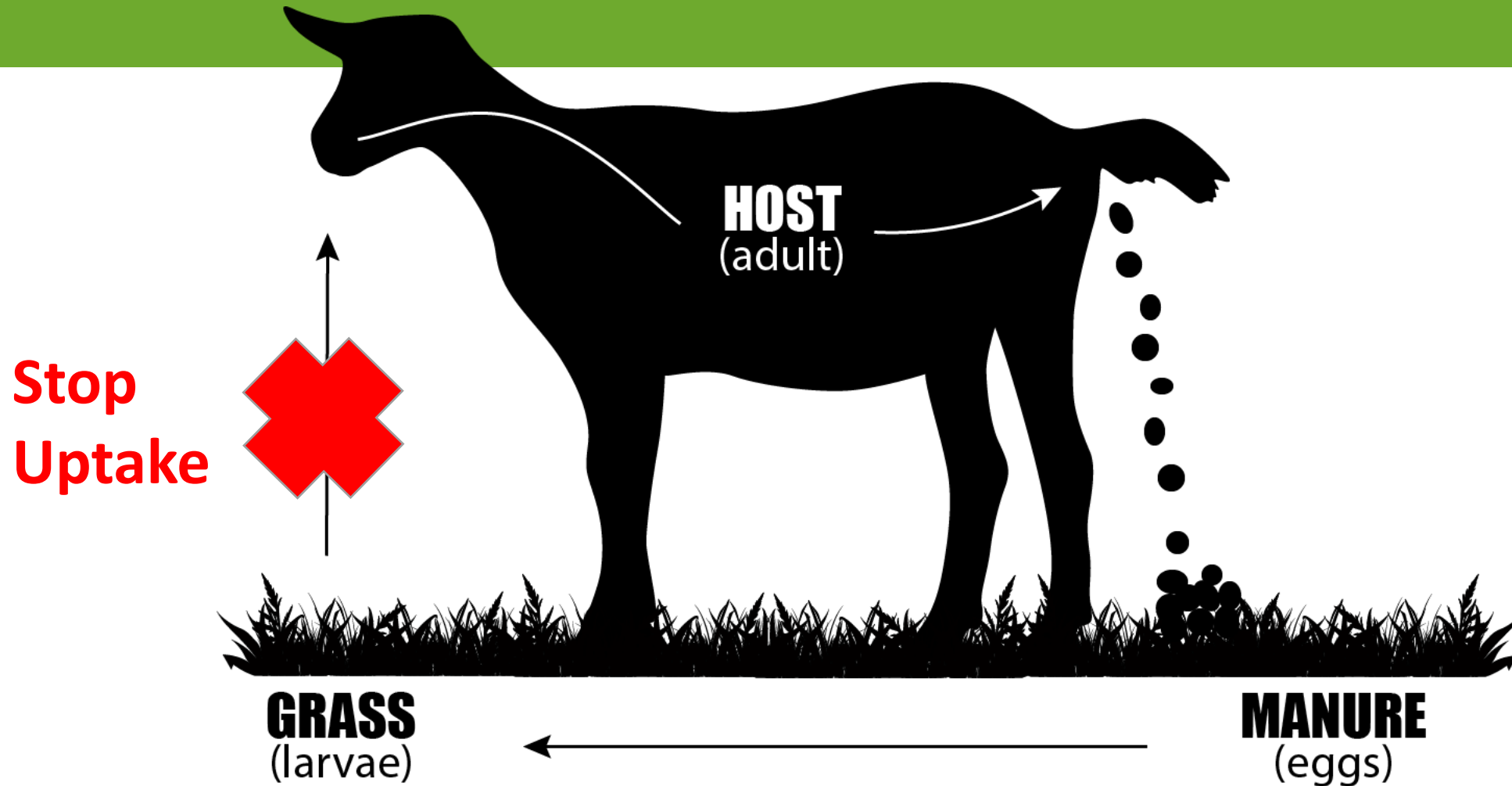


Medicinal Grazing Measures

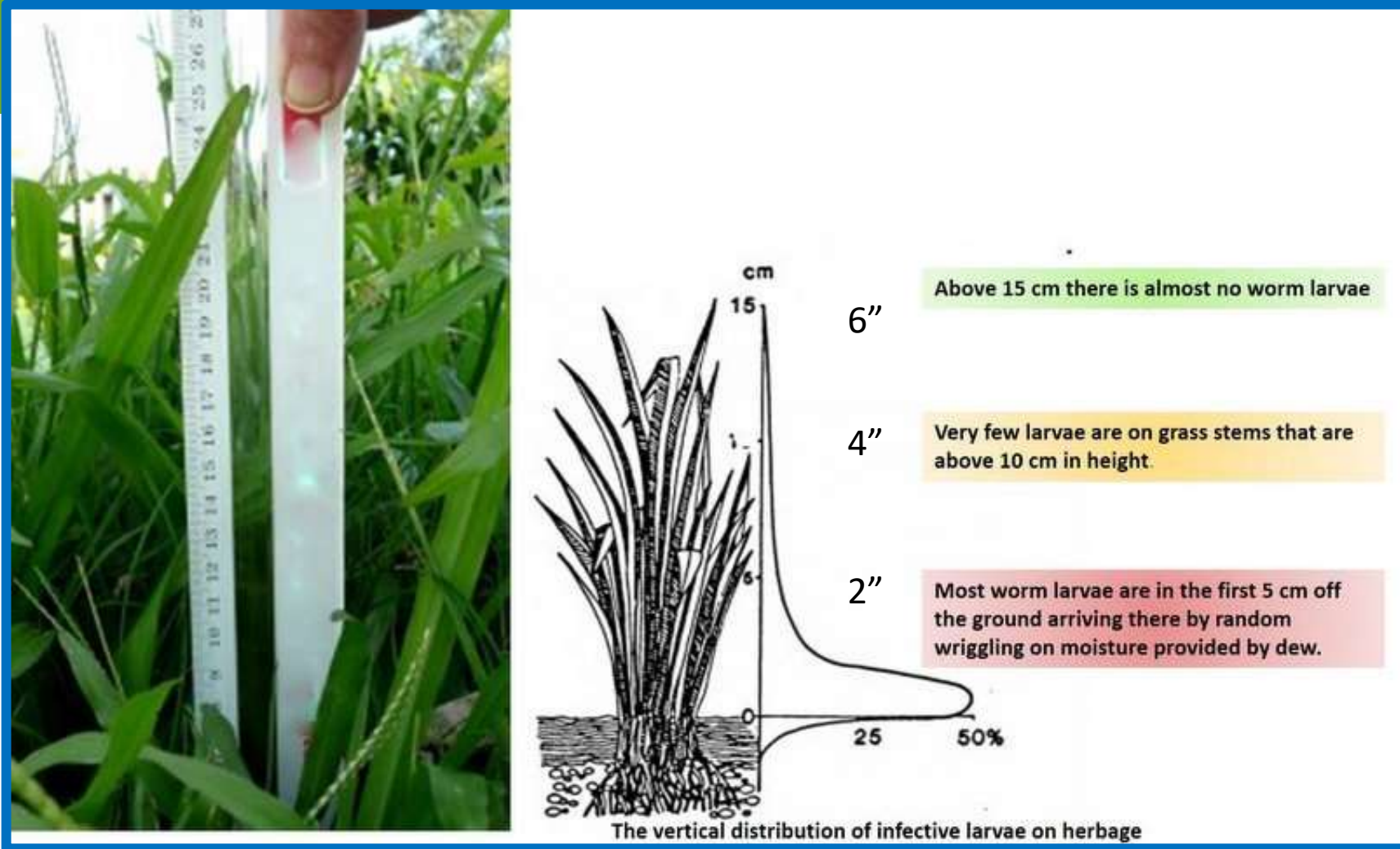
- ✓ Management Intensive Grazing
- ✓ No Congregating Areas
- ✓ Medicinal Hedgerows
- ✓ Medicinal Paddocks
- ✓ Graze Different Species



Life Cycle of Barber's Pole Worm



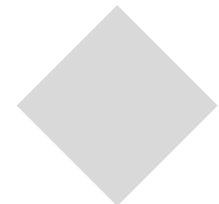
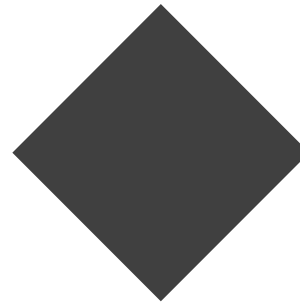
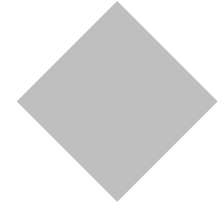
Don't Graze Below 4"!



Courtesy of Wormboss.com

Stop Uptake (Don't Graze Below 4")

- 1 Management intensive graze
- 2 Plant browse
- 3 No congregating areas
- 4 Rotate even in winter sacrifice areas



1. MANAGEMENT INTENSIVE GRAZING - Before



1. MANAGEMENT INTENSIVE GRAZING – Step 1



1. MANAGEMENT INTENSIVE GRAZING - After



1. MANAGEMENT INTENSIVE GRAZING

Benefits in Grazing the Yard

- Shade buffers livestock from high temps in summer
- No mowing
- No fertilizing
- Animals get protein from leftover nuts and leaves in fall

1. MANAGEMENT INTENSIVE GRAZING

Grazing the Long Acre



- Extra 3 days grazing
- Slows traffic
- We don't have to bush hog steep slopes

2. PLANT BROWSE

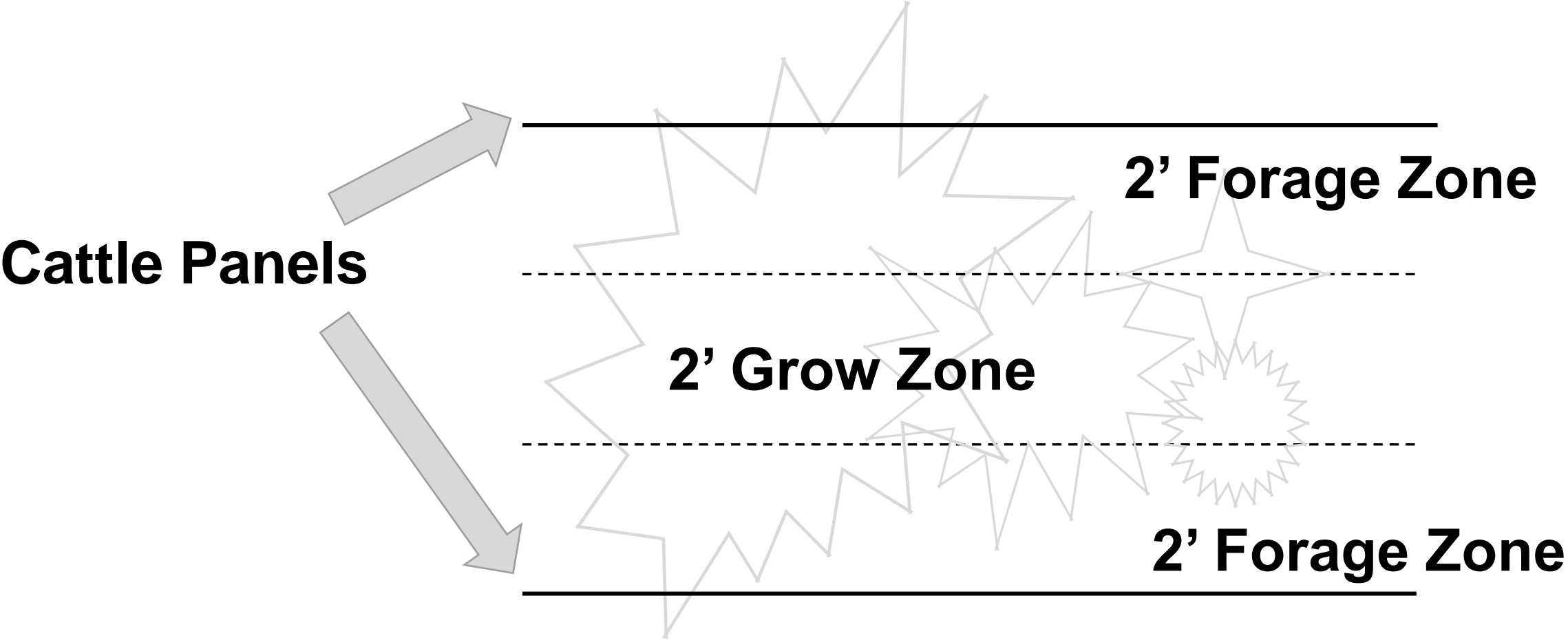
Hedgerows

Goats inventing things



2. PLANT BROWSE

Hedgerows



A Forage Fence was born!

2. PLANT BROWSE

What to Plant?

Other Deworming Options

- Poplar
- Tansy
- Elderberry
- Pokeweed
- Nut Shells
- Willow
- Mulberry
- Oak
- Sericia Lespedeza
- Chicory

Black Locust (Luginbuhl from NC State)

- Most palatable for goats
- Fastest regrowth
- Browse, so preferred
- Off the ground, so breaks worm life cycle
- Nitrogen Fixer
- Natural dewormer
- Caution! Poisonous to horses



2. PLANT BROWSE

Forage Fence In Action



3. NO CONGREGATING AREAS

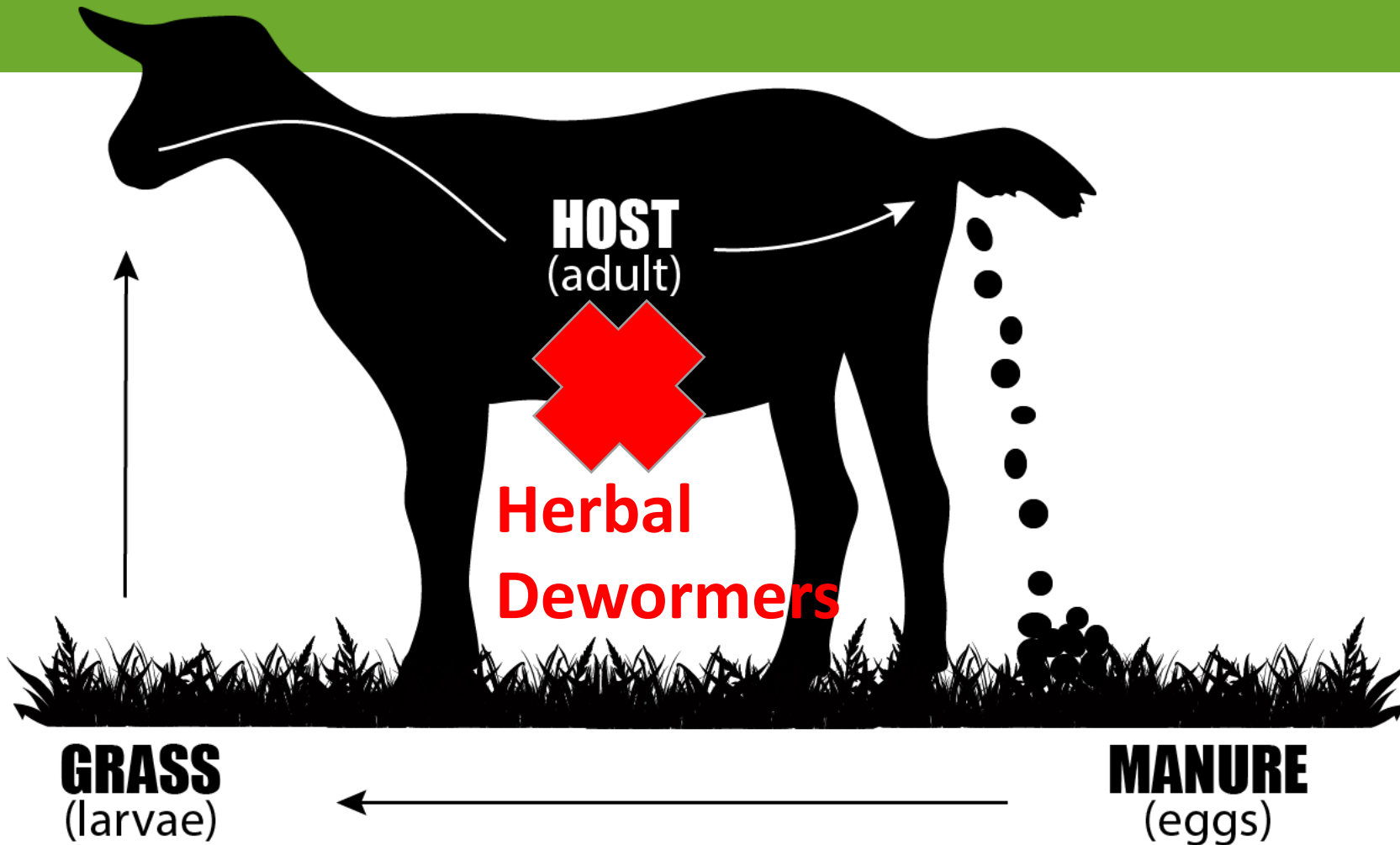
This is our barnyard.



4. ROTATE EVEN IN WINTER SACRIFICE AREAS

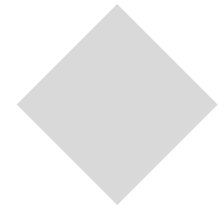
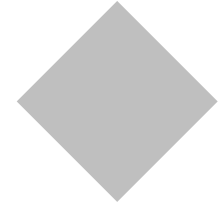
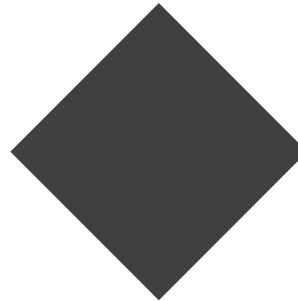


Life Cycle of Barber's Pole Worm



Herbal Dewormers

- A Forage Fence
- B Medicinal Paddocks

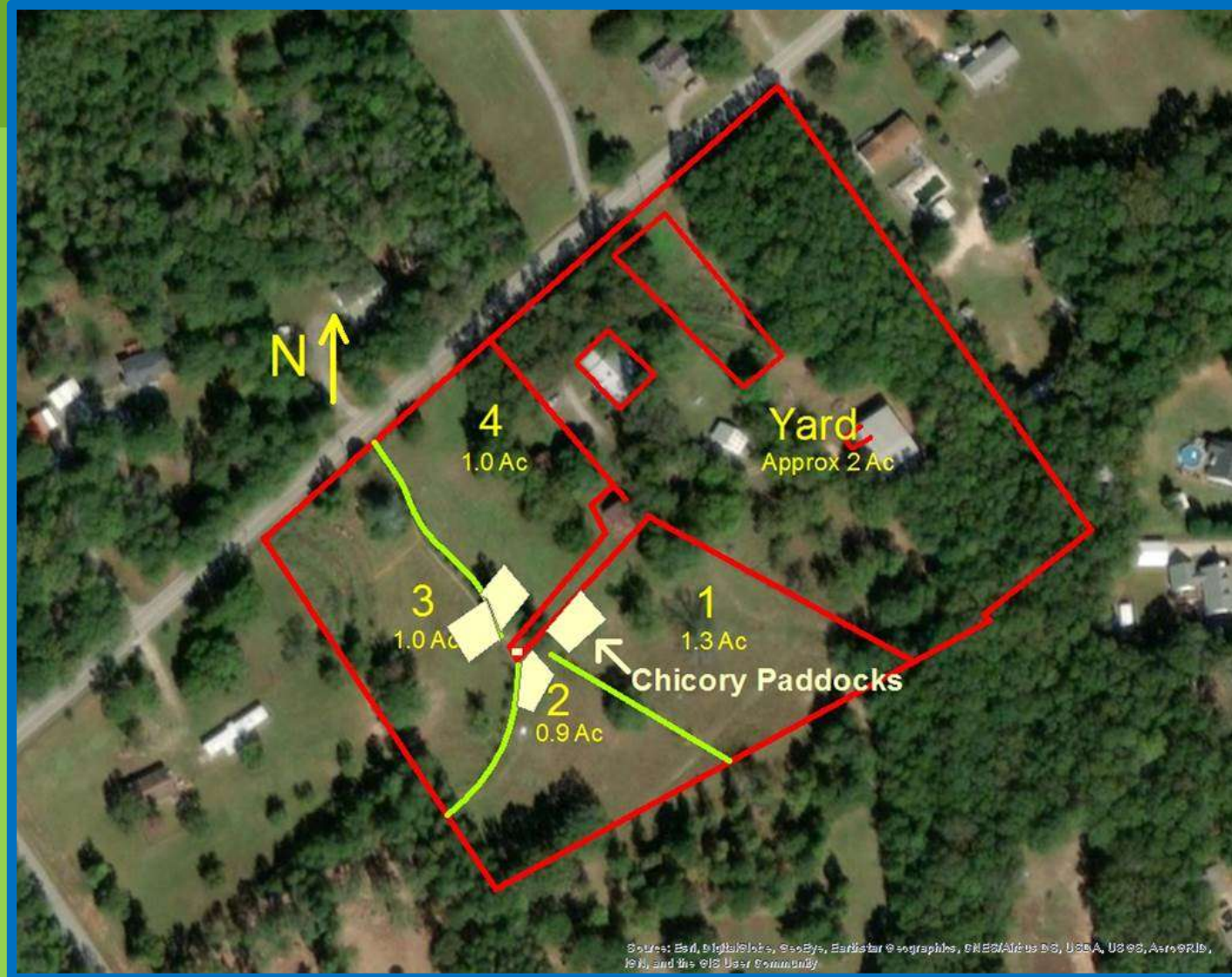




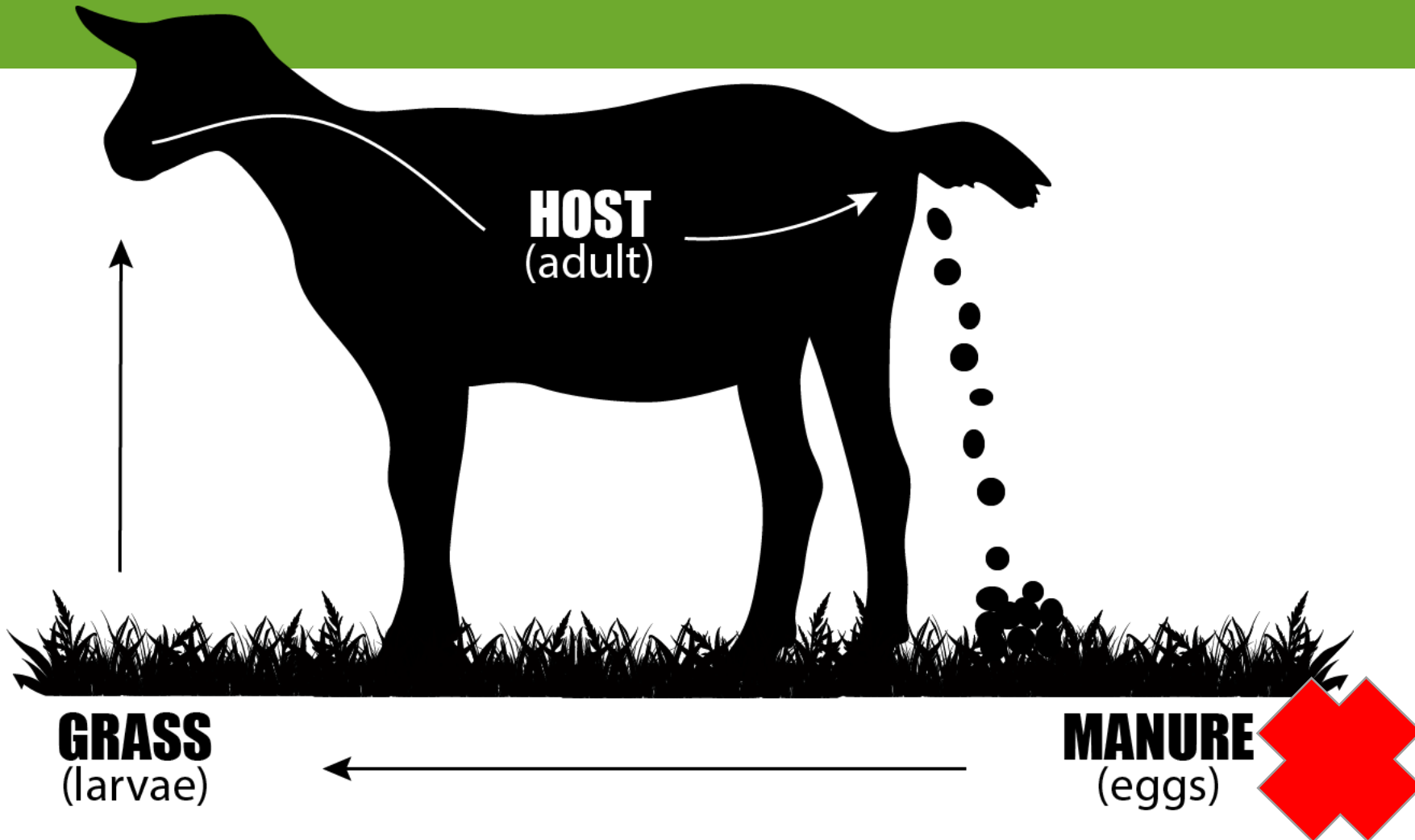
Medicinal Paddocks

Dr. John Andrae of Clemson University proved that chicory has deworming properties as forage for lambs.

Medicinal Paddocks



Life Cycle of Barber's Pole Worm



**Graze
Different
Species**

Graze Different Species





Our Results

Went almost immediately from deworming 2-3 times/year to zero times in 6 years!

Unexpected Outcomes

Beauty & Bouquets



Unexpected Outcomes

Increased Pollinators





Unexpected **Outcomes**

...and honey!

Unexpected Outcomes

Spiders!



Unexpected **Outcomes**

Endangered Species Habitat



Unexpected **Outcomes**

More Birds





Unexpected **Outcomes**

Dung Beetles

Unexpected Outcomes

Shade, Fungi repository



Unexpected **Outcomes**

Better Forage with no additional fertilizer or lime!



Unexpected Outcomes

Increased stocking rate by $\frac{1}{3}$ AND Decreased hay by $\frac{1}{2}$



Unexpected Outcomes

Fruits & Berries



Unexpected Outcomes

Happiness





Remember:
Don't Graze
Below 4"

How to **Contact Me**



kirsten@pecandale.com



Other **Resources:**



Started reGenerative Grazing Group on Facebook in 2015. Come join us!



Join your local Forage and Grazing Land Coalition and start going to workshops.

Questions?

Please type into the Q & A tab



Connect with **FACT**

Food Animal Concerns Trust

Upcoming webinars

- 🐔 **February 28:** Pastured Poultry and Avian Influenza
- 🐔 **March 3:** Operating a Meat CSA
- 🐔 **March 7:** Beefing Up Your Farm's Brand & Online Presence
- 🐔 **March 29:** Business Structure Basics for Your Farm

Grants, Scholarships, Training, Mentorship & More!

- 🐔 **Scholarships** – *ongoing*
- 🐔 **Customized handouts** on the nutritional benefits of food from pastured animals

Sign up for emails @ foodanimalconcernstrust.org/

Join us on social media

