VSU researcher is grant recipient

Dr. Stephan Wildeus, a small ruminant professor in Virginia State University’s Agricultural Research Station, recently received a three-year, $299,305 USDA capacity-building grant. The grant supports research and extension efforts to help limited resource farmers increase their incomes by raising and selling grass-fed hair sheep as meat to direct and retail markets.

Initially, VSU will focus on production and growth performance. Wildeus explained that VSU is collaborating with Georgia’s Fort Valley State University, which will process the lamb into cuts for consumers to sample. VSU will then conduct test marketing at selected farmers’ markets and specialty food retailers to determine the level of consumer acceptance.

For more information, contact Wildeus at (804) 524-6716 or e-mail swildeus@vsu.edu.

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