Practical Health Tips For the Family Sheep Farm

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Clostridial Vaccines

- Enterotoxemia (Bloody Scours)
- Overeating (Pulpy Kidney Disease)
- Tetanus

Available Products

- Covexin 8
- CDT
**Covexin 8**
- 5 mls initial dose
- 2 mls booster
- Subcutaneous
- Commonly leaves an inflammatory knot at injection site

**CD/T**
- 2 mls initial dose
- 2 mls booster
- More tissue friendly (subcutaneous)
- Harder to acquire in some areas

**Passive Immunity**
- Most effective way to vaccinate newborn lambs
- Vax dams at least 30 days prior to lambing
- Antibodies passed through the colostrum
- Protection for 6-8 weeks
- Nutrition and other health factors are important

**When to Vaccinate**
- Initial dose at 6-8 weeks
- Booster in 30 days
- Again at 4-5 months if keeping and feeding
Vibrio (Campylobacter Fetus)

- Abortions (last 30 days of pregnancy)
- Common in Open Flocks and where sheep are mixed from separate locations
- Cheap insurance
- Vaccinate at or near the start of breeding season

Optional Vaccines

- Foot Rot
- Rabies
- Caseous Lymphadenitis (CL)
- Sore Mouth (Orf Virus)

Vaccine Rules

- Follow label instructions
- Pay attention to handling, refrigeration, sterile technique
- Sub Q injections behind armpit or in front of shoulder
Coccidiosis

- Protozoal parasite
- Common inhabitant of sheep feces
- Multiplies in times of stress
- Weaning, crowding, harsh weather, poor sanitation
- Katahdins seem more susceptible than other breeds

Prevention

- Bovatec 20-30 grams per ton
- Rumensin  - Ten times more toxic than Bovatec
- Deccox ½ mg per Kg daily
- These products in feed or mineral

Treatment

- Corid (Amprolium) in water or drench
- Albon (Sulfadimethoxine)
- Sulfamethazine
- Sulfas as oral drench
Mineral Deficiencies

• Calcium (Milk Fever)
• Magnesium (Grass Staggers)
• Vit E – Selenium (White muscle disease)

Calcium Deficiency (Milk Fever)

• Within days before or after lambing
• Older ewes
• Flaccid paralysis
• Can add feed grade limestone to mineral
Continued...

• Keep calcium oral gel on hand
• May require Calcium Gluconate or CMPK intravenous
• Veterinary emergency?
• Prevention is the key

Magnesium Deficiency (Grass Staggers)

• Winter or spring pastures
• Just before lambing to early lactation
• Rigid paralysis
• Hyper excitable or convulsions
Continued...

• Magnesium Gel orally
• CMPK 60 mls intravenous
• Mineral free choice with adequate Magnesium

Vitamin E – Selenium Deficiency

• Young fast growing lambs
• Selenium deficient areas
• Affects muscles of limbs and heart (White Muscle Disease)
• Provide Adequate mineral free choice
• BO-SE 1 ml per 40 lbs IM

Sore Mouth (Orf virus)

• Exists in most sheep flocks
• Symptoms last 2-3 weeks
• Permanent Immunity after recovery
• **** CAN INFECT HUMANS****
Foot Scald

- Scald involves soft tissue between digits
- Wet, low lying pastures and mud
- More common and easier to treat
- Topicals and Nuflor 3mls per 100 lbs IM
- Fusobacterium Necrophorum

Foot Rot (Bacteroides Nodosus)

- Much more serious flock problem than scald
- Deforms and destroys hoof tissue
- Severe lameness
- Trim, Topicals, and Zactran 2mls per 50 lbs IM
Pinkeye in Sheep

- Occurs after mixing sheep from two flocks
- Will run course in 3 weeks without permanent lesion
- Linked to upper respiratory virus
- Gentamicin Spray daily in eye
Vaginal Prolapse

• Can be hereditary
• High roughage (hay) diets
• Alfalfa diets pre lambing (estrogen)
• Extremely fat sheep
• Multiple lambs in abdomen

Vaginal Prolapse (continued)

• Replace and suture
• Retaining spoons
• Prolapse Harness
• Cull ewe and lambs at weaning
Uterine Prolapse

- Difficult birth
- Retained placenta
- Veterinary emergency
- Ewes may be retained in flock

Mastitis in Sheep

- Early lactation and after weaning
- Mud and manure
- Concentrate on saving the ewe
- Intra mammary and injectable antibiotics
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THANK YOU!!!