



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

TREATING CLINICAL COCCIDIOSIS



- Should individually treat, especially young and unweaned animals that are not consistently consuming feed or water.
- Treat with oral preparations of amprolium (Corid®) or sulfa medications (e.g. Albon®, Di-methox®, or Sulmet®).
- Sulfa medications are preferred, because they are more broad spectrum and there is less resistance.
- Though anti-coccidial drugs can be purchased OTC, treatments are not FDA-approved for sheep or goats; thus, a veterinary prescription (Rx) is required.
- Treat for 5 days.
- Dewormers have no effect on coccidial



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 Necophorum



Foot Rot (Bacteroides Nodosus)

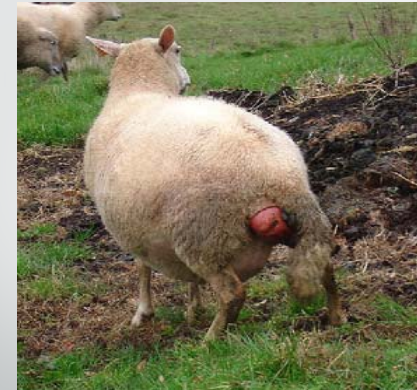
- Much more serious flock problem than scald
- Deforms and destroys hoof tissue
- Severe lameness
- Trim, Topicals, and Zactran 2mls per 50 lbs IM



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

Contact Information

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THANK YOU!!!

