



The WeCAHN small ruminant network met May 26th, 2022.

Clinical Impressions Survey:

Respiratory system:

- Respiratory disease was reported rarely by 3 practitioners and very frequently by 1, who reported un-differentiated pneumonia and broncho-pneumonia Very frequently.

Digestive system:

- Digestive disease was reported diagnosed Never (N = 1 practitioner) to Rarely (N = 2) to Very frequently (N = 1).
- Diarrhea associated with *E. coli*** was reported Very frequently by one practitioner, occurring in pre-weaning lambs.
- Watery mouth** (drooling, dehydration, and sometimes diarrhea, associated with endotoxin often accompanying *E. coli* infection) in neonatal lambs was reported anecdotally by producers.

Reproductive system:

- The network practitioners reported seeing abortions rarely to very frequently in Q1 2022.
- Most infectious causes of abortion appeared stable at both PDS and Manitoba, for sheep and goats.
- Sheep and goat abortions submissions, for which no cause was determined were stable relative to the previous five years, at PDS.
- Salmonella* Diarizonae** was reported from aborted lambs in Manitoba. This is a reminder to producers and veterinarians that some causes of abortion are zoonotic (can infect people), and reinforces the need for wearing disposable gloves when intervening in lambing or collecting a dead lamb or aborted foetus.

Multi-systemic disease:

- Nutritional disease**, as well as septicemia (blood poisoning), were reported rarely to commonly by the network practitioners.
- Energy and protein deficiencies** were reported very frequently, and copper and Vitamin E deficiencies commonly, by one practitioner.
- Several species of bacteria (*Clostridia spp.*, *E. coli*, *Listeria monocytogenes*, *Mannheimia haemolytica*, and *Pasteurella multocida*), were all reported common causes of septicemia by one practitioner.
- An outbreak of caseous lymphadenitis** was reported by UVM in a group of 75 ewes introduced into an existing flock of 250.

Scan

- Cache Valley virus (CVV)** infection was diagnosed in two Ontario dairy goat herds, associated with aborted fetuses exhibiting various combinations of fetal malformations. For more information: <https://www.uoguelph.ca/ahl/cache-valley-virus-abortions-goat-kids>



Meeting takeaways:

- Lamb diarrhea:** In neonatal lambs, producers may see 'watery mouth' presenting as drooling, dehydration and possibly diarrhea, reflecting presence of a toxin often associated with *E. coli* infection. Treatment protocols designed with your veterinarian need to be started ASAP to be effective.
- Cache Valley virus:** network members have heard of potential cases (and also seen pictures of some of these), from producers and veterinarians. Producers should be encouraged to freeze abortions or congenitally deformed lambs, and submit to the laboratory when the number of affected animals reaches a level defined by their veterinarian.
- Footrot survey findings from western veterinarians and producers:** the most frequently reported pattern was occasional outbreaks. Many veterinarians had little understanding of the disease impact in their clients flocks. Vaccine effectiveness was rated the most important determinant in deciding whether to use a Canadian footrot vaccine, should one become available.