

NEONATAL POST-MORTEM EXAMINATION RECORD SHEET

This sheet can be used to summarize post-mortem findings. The form follows the steps in the *Neonatal Post-mortem Examination Checklist* and the *Neonatal Post-mortem Examination Guide**. Post-mortem findings should be included with your lambing/ewe records.

In most of the exam steps, you are asked to choose 'Yes' or 'No'. Some cases, however, may be more difficult than others to interpret. To reach the most likely conclusion about the cause of death it is important to look at the findings as a whole (i.e. do all of the findings support the same conclusion?). This exam looks for the most common causes of death. At times you may go through the steps and not find conclusive results. Consider contacting your veterinarian for more extensive testing or any time you are concerned about lamb deaths.

Steps 1 & 2: Record Information and External Examination.

1	Record Information	Date of exam: _____ Lamb birth date: _____ Lamb age at death: _____			
		Ewe ID: _____ Number of lambs in litter alive: _____ Number dead: _____			
		Weather/ambient temperature: _____			
		Ewe behavior towards lamb: Attentive Uninterested Aggressive			
		Birth difficulties: Yes No Unknown			
		Other details: _____			
2	External Abnormalities Noted:				
	Lamb: _____				
	Placenta: _____				
	Did the lamb walk?	No Yes	Conclusion: Was the lamb alive at birth?		
Steps 4-5: Alive at Birth		No	Yes	Notes:	
4	Did the lamb breathe after birth?				No Yes
5	Is there evidence of tissue decay?	No Yes			
Steps 6-8: Dystocia (Difficult Birth)		No	Yes	Notes:	
6	Hemorrhage (bleeding)?				No Yes
7	Ruptured liver?				No Yes
8	Edema/injury of the head, neck, sternum or ribcage?	No Yes			
Steps 9-11: Starvation/Exposure		No	Yes	Notes:	
9	Brown fat depleted?				No Yes
10	Milk clot in stomach?				No Yes
11	Intestinal milk absorption?	No Yes			
Steps 12-16: Other Causes		No	Yes	Notes:	
12	Navel infection?				No Yes
13	Liver damage/lesions?				No Yes
14	Trauma, not due to dystocia?				No Yes
15	Internal abnormality?				No Yes
16	Cause of death unknown?	No Yes			

Adapted from 'Lamb Post-Mortem Protocol for Use on Farm: To Diagnose Primary Cause of Lamb Death from Birth to 3 Days of Age', J.M. Everett-Hincks and S.J. Duncan. The Open Veterinary Science Journal, 2008, 2, 55-62 and Dr. Lynn Tait's presentation 'Neonatal Management: Why is my lamb dead and how could I have prevented this'.

These resources and more information about neonatal management are available from Alberta Lamb Producers (www.ablamb.ca ,403-948-8533).

