

The Ontario Animal Health Network is a program focusing on early disease detection so as to identify trends in animal health issues. Information was obtained from a quarterly survey of practicing veterinarians and laboratory data from the Animal Health Laboratory. It is the intent of this program to improve the health of small ruminants in Ontario.



Ontario Animal Health Network (OAHN) Small Ruminant Network Quarterly Producer Report

May 2016

Report #8

Highlights

- Q1 Surveillance Summary
- *Listeria monocytogenes*
- Small Ruminant Adult Mortality Project and Premises Identification Numbers
- Foot Disease in Sheep
- Looking for a Veterinarian?
- Welcome Dr. Connie Dancho

Follow us and receive disease alerts and more!

www.oahn.ca



@OntAnHealthNet

Email
oahn@uoguelph.ca

Q1 Surveillance Summary

Clinical Impressions Survey

In youngstock, practitioners surveyed indicated that the top clinical issues for the quarter dealt with lambing and kidding (stillbirths, born weak), septicemia (bacteria in the bloodstream), neonatal diarrhea and pneumonia. Lambs and kids were equally affected.

The main clinical findings for adult sheep and goats were caseous lymphadenitis, abortions, and pregnancy toxemia.

AHL Data

Not unexpectedly, abortion numbers were increased during the first three months of the year for both sheep and goats. The most frequent causes of abortion in goats were *Toxoplasma gondii*, *Coxiella burnetii* and *Listeria monocytogenes*. In sheep, *Chlamydia abortus*, *Coxiella burnetii* and Cache Valley virus were the most frequently diagnosed causes of abortion. In addition, testing for caprine arthritis encephalitis (CAE) continues to increase.

Listeriosis - A cause of abortion and septicemia

Listeriosis in small ruminants mainly takes the form of inflammation/swelling of the brain and membranes surrounding the brain. However, it may also cause late-term abortions or septicemia. During the first quarter of 2016, all three forms of the disease were diagnosed in mature dairy goats, along with swelling of the brain in kids and septicemia in a fetus. Signs of septicemia included fever, loss of appetite, decreased milk production, and diarrhea. Septicemia with fever usually precedes abortion. Does may show only mild signs of being ill or may require antibiotic treatment for retained membranes and metritis. Infected animals (without clinical signs) often shed listeria in the milk and feces, therefore newborns may be at risk of developing septicemia. Talk to your herd/flock veterinarian about treatment and prevention measures.

REMEMBER:

Listeria can commonly be found in the environment; in poorly ensiled feeds, feed contaminated with soil or manure, good quality feed contaminated with spoiled feed, or rotting vegetation. Bunk management of ensiled feed is crucial



OAHN Small Ruminant Network Team:

Southern ON
Dr. Rex Crawford

Northern ON
Dr. Connie Dancho

Eastern ON
Dr. John Hancock

OVC
Dr. Paula Menzies

AHL
Dr. Maria Spinato

OMAFRA
Dr. Jocelyn Jansen
Dr. Tim Pasma
Dr. Alexandra Reid

OAHN Coordinator
Dr. Melanie Barham

in managing this disease.

Listeriosis is a zoonotic disease, meaning the bacteria can spread from animals to people. Apparently healthy animals, with no clinical mastitis, can shed *Listeria* in the milk. Raw milk consumption has been associated with *Listeria* outbreaks in people, causing severe disease.

Small Ruminant Adult Mortality Project and PID #s

The Ontario Animal Health Network, along with the OMAFRA-University of Guelph Partnership KTT Program, has provided research dollars to fund an exciting project for small ruminants. Adult sheep and goat mortalities are rarely sent to a laboratory for a complete postmortem and veterinarians infrequently perform postmortems on-farm. However, there is value in knowing why an animal died (chronic wasting diseases, metabolic/nutritional diseases, neurological disorders, parasite problems). This project seeks to improve the practice of on-farm postmortems, and improve information flow among producers, veterinarians and pathologists. The cost of laboratory testing and the post mortem fee will be covered by the project! In order to learn the most from this project, **the project will be requiring a Premises Identification (PID) number on all submissions.** This allows us more sophisticated data analysis to give more firm conclusions at the end of the study. Stay tuned for more information on the start of the project.

WHAT IS A PID?

A PID is a unique identifying number assigned to a parcel of land that is associated with agri-food activities. A PID is critical to have during an animal disease emergency or food recall. It helps with surveillance and research activities by providing a way to better track and map the location of diseases throughout the province without revealing personal information. PIDs can only be shared with relevant government agencies for emergency management purposes: planning/prevention, preparation, response, and recovery situations.

If you do not already have one, it is recommended that producers obtain one so that in the event of participation in the project, the PID is on hand.

Registering premises is quick, easy and free.

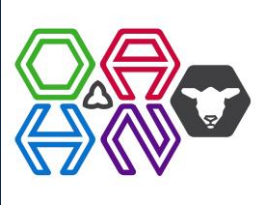
- Visit the Ontario PPR website: www.ontarioppr.com or
- Call Monday through Friday, 8:30am – 5:00pm at 1-855-MY-PPR-ID (1-855-697-7743)

Information needed to obtain a Premises Identification Number (need to accurately identify the property by providing one of the following):

- ✓ Assessment Roll Number (tax assessment number) – preferred method
 - ✓ Latitude and Longitude coordinates from a GPS
 - ✓ Municipal Address of the premises
 - ✓ Lot and Concession Number of the premises
-

Foot Disease in Sheep

The two most common foot diseases in sheep are foot scald (interdigital dermatitis) and footrot (goats may also be afflicted with these issues). Other causes of lameness of the foot include overgrowth or abnormal growth of the horn, toe granulomas (often the result of aggressive trimming of the sole or due to chronic foot rot), or foot abscesses which may progress to joint abscess.



REMEMBER:

Proper treatment first requires a diagnosis based on inspection of the foot. Examination should be done with minimal foot trimming – excessive trimming “to blood” will result in the development of sole granulomas (a mass of chronically inflamed tissue) which are difficult to cure.

- It is easiest to examine the foot with the sheep tipped up.
- Use a hoof knife and / or footrot shears to trim away overgrown wall and remove mud and manure.



Foot scald. Photo courtesy of Paula Menzies.

Foot scald is common in small ruminants kept in wet or dirty conditions. Wet, short grass, muddy yards or wet bedding may be the cause. The interdigital space is wet, red and



Footrot. Photo courtesy of Paula Menzies.

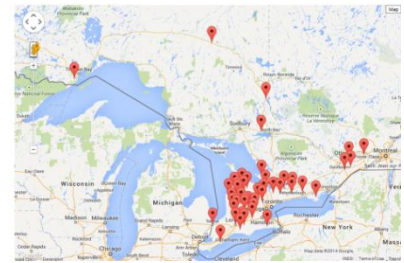
swollen and smelly due to infection, but the sole of the foot is normal. **Signs of footrot** can range from very mild underrunning of the sole to sole destruction, sometimes exposing the sensitive laminae. Lesions can become flystruck in the summer.

Sometimes it is difficult to differentiate foot scald from mild footrot. For this reason, treatment and control is combined for both diseases. Your veterinarian can advise you on the proper treatment regime for your flock/herd.



Looking for a Small Ruminant Veterinarian?

Producers looking for a small ruminant veterinarian should visit the Small Ruminant Veterinarians of Ontario website (www.srvo.ca) view a map of its current members; or speak with fellow producers to locate a veterinarian in their area.



and

Welcome Dr. Connie Dancho

The OAHN Small Ruminant Network would like to welcome Dr. Connie Dancho to the network. Connie will be representing northern Ontario practitioners.