



The WeCAHN small ruminant network met
January 27, 2022.

Clinical Impressions Survey:

Respiratory system:

- Disease was reported **Rarely to Very frequently** by practitioners. Undifferentiated clinical pneumonia, based on clinical signs with no supporting post-mortem or laboratory support, was the most frequently diagnosed syndrome
- An **outbreak of Salmonella Dublin** in 4 month old does presenting with broncho-pneumonia and diarrhea was reported by UCVM. Contact with other animal species in this case is unclear, but it's important to realize that many goats are raised in small hobby farms with multiple species on-farm.

Digestive system:

Disease was reported diagnosed **Commonly to Very frequently**, with **diarrhea and g-i parasites most frequently reported**.

- **Johne's disease** was reported as a frequent cause of culling in some flocks by one practitioner. Laboratory data from Prairie Diagnostic Services (PDS) shows a possible increase in positives for Johne's disease in goats.
- **Coccidial infections** were also reported Very frequently by one practitioner, and discussion suggests coccidia are frequently seen in small ruminants, often associated with some form of stress, and sometimes associated with treatment failure or resistance.

Reproductive system:

- Disease was reported **Commonly to Very frequently** by 2 practitioners.
- **Cache Valley virus (CVV)** was discussed, with several participants commenting that while producers are reporting suspicion of CVV in flocks based on abortions or birth defects, there is widespread reluctance to invest in laboratory diagnosis.

Multi-systemic disease:

- Disease was reported Commonly by 1 practitioner, with Caseous lymphadenitis reported Rarely to Commonly.
- Blood poisoning (septicemia) was reported Rarely to Very frequently and associated with *Clostridia spp.*, *E. coli*, or *Listeria spp.*
- **Nutritional deficiencies** including energy, protein and copper deficiency were reported Commonly by

one practitioner. Nutritional deficiencies were also reported by UCVM DSU, in cases involving Bighorn sheep (copper deficiency incidentally detected in an animal with traumatic injury) as well as domestic sheep (iron and manganese deficiency, as well as marginal copper deficiency).

Scan:

- Several cases of abortions or congenital anomalies in sheep and goats are being investigated by MAPAQ in Québec for potential association with Cache Valley Virus.



Meeting takeaways:

Producers:

- **Abortions and/or deformed lambs may indicate the presence of viruses on-farm, or other problems such as nutritional deficiency. Discussing these with your flock veterinarian is a cost-effective way of improving flock efficiency.**
- **Many infectious causes of abortions in sheep and goats, or illness in newborns, can be zoonotic (can spread to people). Discussing lambing season procedures ahead of time with your veterinarian can help protect you and your family.**