

2011

# Indiana Sheep Symposium

*Guidelines for a healthy growing and  
showing season*

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# Where do I start?

- Lamb Camps and workshops
- Establish a client patient relationship with a local veterinarian
- Network: through the Internet
  - Breeders
  - Animal HealthCare/ veterinarians
  - Lamb Buyers
  - Feed Salesman
  - 4-H Families
- Set your goals



# Define who you are

- Breeder/Producer
  - Owns rams & ewes lambs them out
- Part-time breeder/ buyer
  - Owns ewes and lambs them out off site
- Club Lamb circuit participant
  - The die hard showmen that show most weekends
- County/State fair participants
  - Target lambs for certain shows

# Breeder Profile

## VIP Club Lambs Health Protocol

- Pre-breeding season (May-July) open females/rams
  - Shear ewes and rams for summer pastures
  - Deworming, cydectin cattle pour-on as an oral drench 1cc/22 lbs
  - Vit A/D 2cc SQ, Bo-Se 5cc/200lbs SQ
  - Chlymidia 2cc SQ and Foot-vax 1cc SQ
- Breeding season (July-Aug)
  - rams out of site 30 days prior season
    - Semen check rams before breeding season
  - Insert VIPs for planned breeding season for 2 wks
    - Flush ewes with corn
    - Avoid moving ewes or deworming ewes during the first trimester
    - monitor breeding marks of rams

# Breeder cont...

- Late gestating
  - Ultrasound ewes (Oct-Nov)
  - Vacc bred ewes (nov-dec)
    - 2cc CD/T SQ, 1cc Nasalgen IN (Intranasal), 10 cc cydectin pour-on as a oral drench, footvax 1cc SQ, Vit ADE 5cc SQ
    - Vacc/Injections are very stressful
- Start on grain mix with coccidiostat with tetracycline 60 days prior to lambing
  - Rumensin -vs- Dequonate
    - Be consistent ewe and creep feed

# Breeder cont.....

- Lambing season (Dec-Mar)
  - Newborns
    - 4 oz Colostrum orally, 1/4cc nalagen IN , Wound- Coat umbilical spray, 1cc Vit B complex SQ, 3cc Baby Lamb Strength orally
  - Ewes post partum in the lambing Jugs
    - Check teats/udder for mastitis or hard bag
    - Strip teats and harvest extra colostrum for freezing and storage 4oz snap bags
    - Wet graft lambs if needed
    - Make sure ewes clean out after birth
      - Uterine flush with diluted tea colored iodine with warm water
  - Lambs 3-7 days old
    - Band tails, castrate, 1cc Bo-Se SQ, 1cc VitAD SQ, 1cc Pen 48 SQ, tag
  - Nursing lambs
    - Set up creep area with a heat lamp
    - Set out leafy alfalfa hay, creep feed top dress with some ewe feed
    - Have clean water accessible to lambs
    - Set out mineral and salt to get lambs to start drinking water
    - Vacc 1<sup>st</sup> CD/T around 4 wks 2cc SQ right sternum
    - Vacc CD/T booster 8-10 wks 2cc SQ left sternum and Vacc ½ cc nalagen IN

# Creep Feed Selection criteria

Texture vs Pelleted

18 to 20% CP

Coccidiostat: Rumensin or Dequinate

Medicated: AS700

minimize coughing and diarrhea

Roughage grass-vs-alfalfa

# Lamb buyer Profile

- Purchase lambs
  - off the farm or breeder
  - out of lamb auction sales
  - off of a lamb broker
- Health guidelines need to be established and standardized
- Lambs are often stressed could have a weakened immune system.





# Spring Time - Health Concerns

Systemic- Coughing, runny noses, diarrhea, rectal prolapses, soremouth, fungus, barn mites.

Causes- Weather changes, overcrowding, stress in sheared/chilled lambs, mixing of new lambs, overeating of feeds and or new feeds, soiled/moist bedding, poor biosecurity.

# Preventative Health guidelines

- Isolate new lambs in small groups for 2-3 wks
- Update vaccines/shots
  - Nalagen 1cc IN per lamb, CDT booster 2cc SQ, Vit AD 2cc SQ, Bo-Se 1cc SQ
- Deworm (ie cydectin)
- Sulmet powder in drinking water for 1 wk
  - Coccidia and antibiotic shipping fever treatment
- Treat sheared lambs with Lyme Sulfur Dip
- Establish new show feed and gradually bring on to feed.
- Always wash hands, clothes, and shoes before and after handling different groups of animals

# Establish CPR with a Veterinarian

- CPR – client patient relationship
- Farm calls can be costly and hard to come by
- Hauling the animal is usually cheaper and more convenient for the vet
  - Transport in large dog crate is an option
- Phone health consultations
- Establish a home pharmacy for common veterinary medicines
  - Share products/costs with neighbors
  - Ask if the product can be frozen and/or made into smaller portions.

# Know your Pharmacology

most of these are off-label use in sheep

- Steroids, Nsaids, and Antihistamines
  - These are different types of anti-inflammatories that are commonly added to the antibiotic to medicate bacterial and/or viral infections
  - Works in similar ways but have specific actions and treatments for pain, fever reducer, and inflammation of cells
  - Steroids: Dexamethasone, Pre-def, Vetalog,
  - Nsaids (nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs): banamine, bute, naproxine, asprine
  - Antihistamines: Recovr, Histovet-P, benedryl,



# Pharmacology cont

- Antibiotics: treats bacterial infections
  - Cidal drugs: kills the bacteria in the body
    - Penicillin, naxcel, nuflor, draxin
  - Static drugs: holds the bacteria stagnant until the body overcomes the bacteria
    - Tetracyclines, sulfas, gentamycin

These are commonly given as injections, oral meds added to the feed or water, or topically



# Respiratory Tx cocktail

- Clinical Signs: coughing/nasal discharge
  - Excede or Daxin (1cc/45lbs) 1 treatment for 7days  
PLUS
  - Predef or dex (1cc/50lbs) 1 treatment for 7 days  
PLUS
  - Re-covr (1cc/20lbs) treat daily for 3 days
  - Vit B complex 2cc daily for 3 days

# Ringworm the dreaded parasite?

- Fungal Tx: Club Lamb Fungus
- Know what to look for early signs verses large ringworm lesions
  - Prevention tx
    - **Lyme Sulfur Dip – spray down lambs after show**
      - **Most effective way to prevent outbreaks and fly bites**
    - Chrolohexidine
  - Topical tx
    - OTC Antifungal tx (chlotrimazole, lamasil)
    - Captan – rose fungus tx
  - Environmental Tx
    - Tilt (wheat fungicide)
      - 1 fl oz per gallon water and use a weed sprayer
        - Spray down feeders, gates, waters, halters
- Common DDX: Staph sp, mites, fly bites





# Diarrhea where did that come from?

- Stress and/or changing feeds
- Is it bacterial or parasitic
- Always best to deworm again every 2-3 weeks
- Have clostridium CD anti-toxin on hand
  - Treat 20cc SQ and 20 orally just in case
  - Pepto is useful to coat GI tract
  - decrease food and water for 12 hrs
  - Hand feed grass hay with Vit B Complex till firm stool and normal appetite





# Coccidiosis

- Run a fecal before any treatment
- Preventions
  - Drinking water low doses
    - Corid and Sulfaved
  - Coccidiostats in feeds
    - Rumensin, Dequinat
    - Will not treat active infections
    - When changing feeds with different coccidiostats often will cause an outbreak so you need to treat with a water tx and deworm at the same time.
- Treatments
  - Corid depletes thiamine from the body and will need to tx with vit B complex
  - Sulfaved



# Sore mouth on your Lambs

- What do I do?
- Common in young lambs or < 1 year old
  - Scabs around mouth – Pox virus
  - Last 4-6 wks duration – no treatment
  - Orf vaccine for prevention
    - Possible to cause malignant orf
  - Let it spread b/t lambs nose-to-nose
  - Bringing in new groups or individual lambs
  - Possible human zoonosis
    - Wash hands with soap and water



# Rectal Prolapse

- Common in short tail docks
- Highly Genetic
  - Rams & offspring
- Chronic Coughing
  - Treat with effective antibiotics
- Vitamin E deficiencies
- Treatments
  - Purse string and Iodine Injection
  - Rectal tube and banding

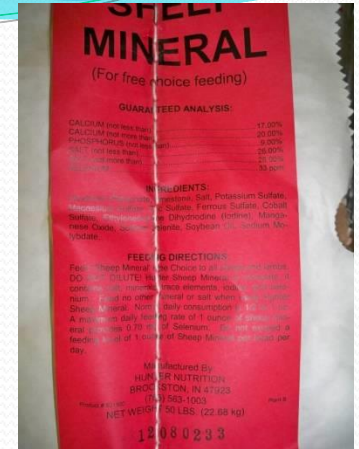


# Is it Scald or Rot?

- Sore feet and limping sheep
- Wet conditions in common gateways, barn doors, or bedding is the source of infection
- Bacteria is the cause
  - Foot Scald is infection in-between the hooves
  - Foot Rot is infection in the sole of the hoof
- Treatment: trim feet, foot baths, injectable antibiotics, topical treatments
- Prevention: remove wet areas and replace with stone, FootVax – possible knots

# Urinary Calculi

- Bladder stones or crystals
- Common in wethers
- Caused by improper balance of Ca:P 2 to 1
  - Concentrate feeds
  - Alfalfa –vs- Grass hay
- Can be fatal – veterinary assistance ASAP
- Treatment- cut off urethral process, drench with apple cider vinegar to dissolve the stones



# Know your Home Pharmacy

- Medications
  - Proper storage, refrigeration, light sensitivity, withdrawal times, label dosages, expiration dates
  - Record date, animal ID, drug, dose/method, withdrawal time and site given for what specific problem
    - 3/18/10, tag 310, Draxin, 2cc SQ, R neck, 18 days, for coughing
- Syringes
  - Disposable single use –vs– clean reusable syringes
  - Common useful sizes: 3cc, 12cc, or 20cc
- Needles
  - Diameter - 14, 18, 20, & 22 gauge (largest to smallest)
  - Length  $\frac{3}{4}$ , 1, and 1.5 inch
  - Always use a clean needle when pulling up the antibiotics
    - Trade off needles b/t drawing up meds and injecting animals
  - Caution used, bent, spurs, and/or broken needles
    - Proper disposal Sharps container or empty heavy plastic jugs



# Preventative medicine

- Isolate new arrivals 2-3 wks
- Nasalgen- viral pneumonia vaccine
- Booster CD/T, Vit A/D, Bo-Se
- Deworm with Cydectin every 3 weeks
- Lyme Sulfur Dip Sheared Lambs
- Proactive animal health care leads to healthy growing and show season