The National Scrapie Eradication Program (NSEP) started in 2001. The goal for the NSEP is to have Scrapie eradicated by 2017.

U.S. Progress: This past Fiscal Year (FY13 = October 1, 2012 to September 30, 2013) there were 11 newly identified Infected and Source flocks in the nation. Two of these were goat herds. In Fiscal Year 2011 there were 15 newly identified Infected and Source flocks and in FY 2012 there were 8. This is down from a high of 181 in FY 2005.

Looking forward: We still have a ways to go for the US to have a Scrapie Free Status. There are several management tools producers can use to keep their flocks Scrapie free. Strict use of RR rams, retaining only QR or RR ewe lambs to breed, when purchasing breeding stock of unknown Scrapie status buy only RR rams and RR or QR ewes. However the most effective method of preventing Scrapie from being introduced into your flock is to maintain a closed ewe flock. Eradication of this disease depends on producers keeping records of purchases and sales and always applying Scrapie ID tags to sexually intact sheep or goats when leaving the flock/herd and reporting any sheep or goats with clinical signs resembling Scrapie to your veterinarian or to a State or Federal veterinarian. Clinical signs of Scrapie can be any of the following: changes in behavior or temperament, weight loss, scratching or rubbing, biting of feet and limbs, lip smacking, tremors, loss of coordination, high stepping of front legs, “rabbit hopping”, or swaying of back end.

Sheep and goats: producers with sheep and goats should note that goats don’t have a resistant genotype as sheep do. At this time, all goats are considered susceptible to Scrapie, so if sheep from your flock are diagnosed with Scrapie, the goats in your flock will be considered exposed to Scrapie and will face depopulation along with the QQ sheep. This is a good reason not to have goats on the same premises as sheep or at least make sure the sheep in your flock are RR or QR.

Live Animal testing: there are options available for live animal Scrapie testing of your flock that involve genotyping and rectal biopsying of your sheep at little cost to you. Call the numbers below for details.

For more info about Scrapie contact: Dr. Greg Schmitt (515-669-5633) or Dr. Sharon Fairchild (515-669-3727)
Ringwomb or Early Dilation Syndrome

Do You Know the Difference?

With the upcoming lambing season, dystocia (difficult lambings) will occur within nearly every flock at one time or another. On a percent basis, failure of complete cervical dilation accounts for 18 to 33 percent of reported dystocias. The key aspect to managing these problems are to understand the difference between true Early Dilation Syndrome and Ringwomb, and its long term consequences within your flock.

What is Early Dilation Syndrome (EDS)?

Early Dilation Syndrome (EDS) is considered a separate clinical syndrome from "Ringwomb". Although both present with similar clinical signs and treatments, the cause and age groups differ significantly. EDS is primarily seen in yearling ewe lambs and virgin 2 year olds, but not older ewes. Presentation differs as well. The ewes presenting with EDS are typically 2 to 3 weeks early from their due date and either have very little mammary development or can “bag up” overnight. By truest definition, these are truly an abortion in progress. When examined, these ewes will usually present with fetal membranes protruding from the vulva and upon examination the lamb or lambs are dead and macerated. If alive, the lambs are premature and weak. Vaginal exam will usually reveal a cervix that is 1 to 2 fingers dilated and firm to the touch. Attempts to deliver by vaginal delivery is not recommended since manual extraction may lead to tearing, peritonitis and death of the ewe. Caesarian section may lead to tearing, peritonitis and death of the ewe. Caesarian delivery is not recommended as soon as possible to ensure their survival. Cesarean section is the most effective way that the lambs can be delivered rapidly and is safe for the ewe as well, especially when performed early on at the onset of labor. Sometimes when veterinary assistance is unavailable and the cervix cannot be dilated as well, it is best to start the ewe on antibiotics until veterinary help is available. This will help in possibly preventing death of the ewe due to infections and sepsis. Most ewes will breed back in the following season and may not suffer consecutively from ringwomb again. However, exceptions do occur as this condition has been suspected of having a genetic component as it is observed more frequently in certain ewe families. It is best to cull such animals from the flock.

Early Dilation Syndrome differs from true Ringwomb in numerous ways. First, the age group differs significantly. Ringwomb occurs in older ewes compared to EDS which is seen in nulliparous (virgin) ewes lambs. Unlike true Ringwomb, EDS does not appear to have a genetic component and does not seem to reoccur in subsequent years. If we consider EDS to truly be an abortion syndrome we have to be concerned with the cause and potential flock health. Causes of abortion can involve infections, toxins, physiological or nutritional components. When any of these causes rear their ugly heads, 5 to 30 percent of the young stock can be affected by abortions and EDS in a given year. It is imperative that your health care professional becomes involved to help determine the cause and future prevention if and when EDS occurs in your flock.

What is Ringwomb?

Ringwomb is best described as the failure of the cervix to dilate sufficiently during parturition in order to promote delivery of the lambs. It has been most commonly observed in ewes that have previously borne offspring (multiparous) and are carrying multiple fetuses. An interesting thing to note is that this particular condition is not due to infection, abnormal positioning of the lambs in the birth canal, premature delivery or mineral and nutritional deficiencies. It is simply the failure of the cervix to respond to hormones that are responsible for the delivery process or sometimes even due to abnormal secretion of these hormones. Ringwomb condition can occur at the expected lambing date or may be associated with a prolonged pregnancy of up to 14 days.

The easiest way to recognize ringwomb in sheep is the presence of fetal membranes protruding from the vulva with no sign of labor. Some animals do not show the typical signs that are associated with labor such as isolation from the flock, lack of appetite or even swelling and relaxation of the external genitalia. There may be poor or slow under development with improper milk letdown and very firm teat canal. Upon examination of the vaginal canal an insufficiency dilated cervix which permits only one or two fingers is usually common. The uterine contractions are therefore ineffective in pushing out the lambs. The placenta will usually separate during this time resulting in loss of blood supply from the ewe to the lambs which can result in a high percentage of lamb losses (up to 35%) in affected flocks. In an event that live lambs are delivered, these are usually weak and may die later. If a ewe with ringwomb is left alone to deliver, there is no change seen in the degree of cervical dilation and delivery of lambs does not occur. Instead the cervix will start to close after two or three hours and this results in death of the lambs. The ewe will then try to expel the dead lambs out after 48 hours. This is usually associated with infection and sepsis and can cause death of the ewe as well.

The most effective treatment is aimed at delivering the lambs as soon as possible to ensure their survival. Cesarean section is the most effective way that the lambs can be delivered rapidly and is safe for the ewe as well, especially when performed early on at the onset of labor. Sometimes when veterinary assistance is unavailable and the cervix cannot be dilated as well, it is best to start the ewe on antibiotics until veterinary help is available. This will help in possibly preventing death of the ewe due to infections and sepsis. Most ewes will breed back in the following season and may not suffer consecutively from ringwomb again. However, exceptions do occur as this condition has been suspected of having a genetic component as it is observed more frequently in certain ewe families. It is best to cull such animals from the flock. The following factors play an important role in Ringwomb:

Breed: Ringwomb has been observed in pure as well as crossbred animals. Some breeds such as Dorset Horn, Suffolk, South Devon, Leicester, and halfbred ewes show increased incidences.

Body condition: Does not seem to be a factor in whether an animal will suffer from ringwomb or not.

Age: Majority of cases occur in ewes two years and older

Number of lambs: Ringwomb condition has been associated with ewes carrying multiple lambs.

Since the exact cause for the ringwomb condition is not known, it is easier to identify and cull animals that have had an incidence of ringwomb, or animals that have the familial history of this condition. Equally important is to identify if the introduction of a new ram in the flock has caused an increased incidence of ringwomb among his daughters, and to cull such rams as well as the daughters from the flock. Families with the condition and these ewes previously affected should not be used for breeding. Early detection and prompt treatment is the best way to reduce the lamb losses associated with ringwomb. Early signs indicating or identifying a ewe with ringwomb are labored breathing while lying down and abnormally large amounts of thick, clear, vaginal mucus discharge with no progression of labor. Ewes should be fed a good quality ration during the last six weeks of pregnancy and every effort should be taken to minimize stressful conditions.

The bottom line is that Ringwomb needs to be differentiated from Early Dilation Syndrome (EDS). It is best to consult with your veterinarian regarding future management strategies, prevention and early detection of these conditions that have a higher incidence in a particular flock.

Dr. Phillips and Dr. Sathe are Theriogenologists (Reproduction Specialist) at Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine.
Calendar of Events

JAN & FEB 2014

January 10  6 p.m.  Northwest Iowa Sheep Producers Annual meeting – Community Center, Sanborn, Iowa.  Leg of Lamb meal - $5/person. Program and business meeting following meal.


January 30, February 6, Feb 13, Feb 20, Feb 27  Sheep and Goat Health Webinar Series.  Details at: www.sheepandgoat.com/programs/2014webinars.html.  Also see article on page 4 of this newsletter.

Do you have an event that you would like to place in the Lamb & Wool newsletter?  Please send information by the 15th of the month preceding publication date of newsletter. Submit via email at info@iowasheep.com or call 712-330-7982.

New Navel Dip Offers Alternative to 7% Iodine

Innovacyn Inc. recently launched Super 7+ Navel Dip, an umbilical cord dry-out and protective solution for newborn animals. The company says its iodine-free formula of alkaline electrolyzed water speeds the drying process and protects the umbilical cord. Super 7+ can be applied using a dip cup or squeeze bottle. The liquid includes a brown dye to help identify treated animals.

Innovacyn funded an Auburn University for a clinical study comparing Super 7+ and 7% tincture of iodine. The study on 100 female neonatal calves, took place on-animal and in vitro. Innovacyn says the Auburn study showed four advantages to its product:

- Faster dry-down times: Dipping with Super 7+ Navel Dip increased the percentage of calves having a dry umbilical cord by 30% over that of tincture of iodine.
- No infection: The umbilical remnants of all calves utilized in the study had no evidence of infection.
- No irritation: There was no evidence of dermal irritation around the skin surrounding the umbilicus or any other area that may have been in contact with Super 7+ Navel Dip. Lower cost: A cost analysis found Super 7+ Navel Dip to be more cost effective than tincture of iodine.

The company also says unlike tincture of iodine, Super 7+ Navel Dip has negligible cytotoxicity and is non-flammable and non-corrosive. It can also be used directly on calves whose umbilical cords were torn off at birth, creating an effective barrier. In addition, the safety profile of Super 7+ ensures that employees and the environment will not be exposed to any dangerous chemicals. The product has no special handling requirements except for following the proper precautions indicated on the label, and does not require hazardous material paperwork or hazard shipping fees.

Super 7+ has an expected 24-month shelf life and can be used on cattle, swine, sheep, horses, goats and dogs.
Fiber News for Ewe

History of the Spinning Wheel by Regina Frahm

Spinning is defined as the simple act of drawing out fibers & twisting them together to form a yarn. This process predates written history, and was first done by hand with sticks. Actual spinning wheels are thought to have originated in India between 500 and 1000 A.D. They started being seen in Europe in the 13th century, and had become a standard piece of equipment for those turning fiber into yarn. Oddly enough, the Chinese were said to have used water powered wheels in the 14th century. By the 17th century they were very commonly found in homes in the Colonies here in the United States. Fabric & yard production was becoming a cottage industry even at that time. Women not only spun yarn at home but also used it as a social event, getting together with friends for “spinning bees.” Like an early “girls night out,” food & beverages were served & prizes were often given to the person who had spun the most or finest yarn. The Industrial Revolution brought mechanization & the beginning of massed produced yarns & the textile industry.

Iowa is newest home for HSUS state council

by Mary Soukup

What do Nebraska, Ohio, Colorado and, now, Iowa have in common? For starters, as of November 14, these are the four states where HSUS has established “State Agriculture Councils” consisting of farmers and ranchers in each state. According to HSUS, the Iowa council will focus on marketing opportunities for farmers and ranchers who practice certain animal welfare standards, highlight environmental stewardship and facilitate a dialogue with other farming and ranching organizations and their members. Chris Petersen, a Berkshire hog farmer from near Clear Lake, Iowa, is one of the founding members of the council of the Iowa Farmers Union. Petersen is the immediate past president for the Iowa Farmers Union.

“As an Iowa farmer, I believe family farmers and ranchers have much common ground with The HSUS when it comes to animal husbandry treatment,” said Petersen. “It’s a positive step to work together to address the future of animal agriculture and find solutions to animal welfare challenges.”

Other founding members include Garry Klicker, a Bloomfield farmer who is also involved with the National Farmers Union and the Sierra Club; Marian Kuper, a farmer who raises row crops and beef calves in Hardin County; Gary Hoskey, a row crop, cattle and hog farmer from Montour; John Gilbert, a farmer from Iowa Falls who raises grains and forages to feed his Brown Swiss dairy herd and pigs; and Tom Frantzen, a New Hampton farmer who grows crops and raises cattle and pigs.

Not so fast says the Animal Agriculture Alliance Communications Director Emily Meredith. The Animal Agriculture Alliance works with its members to educate consumers about animal agriculture.

“The Humane Society of the United States certainly has ample resources to waste on initiatives like their animal welfare coalitions – however there are already plenty of credible groups that work hard every day to safeguard animal well-being,” said Meredith. “These groups include our member organizations, like the American Humane Association, the National Pork Board and many others who have their boots on the ground and have developed – relying on third-party experts, veterinarians and animal scientists – guidelines for producers to follow. With the great work these two groups specifically, and others have done in further advancing animal care, HSUS’ efforts are nothing more a front to appear to be engaged.”

Source www.cattlenetwork.com

Sheep education available in the comfort of your home

A five-part webinar series will be held on consecutive Thursday evenings starting January 30 through February 27, 2014. All webinars will start at 6:00 p.m. CST and last for one hour. Each webinar will be followed by a one hour question-and-answer period. The lead instructor will be Susan Schoenian, Sheep & Goat Specialist for University of Maryland Extension. The following chart describes topics. For more information on how to participate visit: www.sheepandgoat.com/programs/2014webinars.htm

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<td>Disease Management</td>
<td>Foot rot, Scarpel, Ovine progressive pneumonia, Caprine arthritis encephalitis, Caseous lymphadenitis, Johne's disease</td>
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Irish spinning wheel around 1900. Photo - Library of Congress collection

The Spinning Jenny and Spinning Mule (shown) greatly increased the productivity of thread manufacturing compared to the spinning wheel.
ISIA Conference Call Meeting

November 11, 2013, President Ted Greiner called meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Jim Timmins, Erlene Leonard, Margie Meehan, Marsha Spykerman, Regina Frahm, Lorraine Bailey, Ted Greiner and Gary Erickson answered roll call.

Marsha motion approve agenda, Margie second all ayes. Gary motion to approve minutes as printed in newsletter, Jim second all ayes. Erlene gave treasurer's report, commenting that we are better than last year at same time. Jim acknowledged treasurer's report.

Due to the ISWPB not having a quorum at their last meeting no action taken on ISIA employee or food stand promotion staff proposals.

Ted motion to send Regina to ASI meeting in January 2014 as ISIA voting delegate and to pay expenses not reimbursed by ASI. Jim second all ayes.

Discussion on Service Providers Directory – it will be updated on ISIA website and to save money will not be printed in the February newsletter as has been done in the past. Lorraine will contact directory participants to see if information is correct.

Discussion on ISIA website. Marsha said the free web design program ISIA is using is limited to six pages and it would be beneficial to upgrade so we have unlimited pages and a few more perks. The upgrade would bring the cost of the website and hosting to a total of $142 per year.

Lorraine motion to upgrade web site. Jim second all ayes.

Two new reproductive specialist veterinarians at the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine have been contacted about writing articles for the newsletter. We will also visit with them about sheep education seminars at the festival in June. Other guest writers will also be contacted about submitting articles in the newsletter.

ISIA Annual meeting will be Saturday, June 14, 2014. There will be a social on Saturday night at 6:00 PM with annual meeting and auction. Erlene motion to have the wine and dine. Regina second all ayes.

Deb Meier has contacted Margie with a suggestion about conducting a dog clinic at the festival where people can sign up and pay for a time slot to have their dog worked with. Deb also mentioned grants which may be available for dog demonstrations and clinics. Marsha motion for Margie will pursue this with Deb. Regina second all ayes.

Iowa club lamb Association will have a show at festival. Ted has a feed specialist lined up to give one of the sheep education seminars.

Fleece seminar will follow the Fleece Show on Saturday. Gary motion to have 2014 festival dedicated to Erlene Leonard. Margie second all ayes.

Festival sponsorships were discussed see web site for details.

Marsha will complete application for grant from the American Lamb Board for Festival Cook-off. Cooking Demonstration and Lamb Social. Last year ISIA received $1000 from ALB to help with some expenses for these events.

Erlene presented proposal to increase annual due by $5 per year. After much discussion Marsha made motion to raise ISIA yearly due to $30.00. Lorraine second all ayes

Meeting adjourned 9:10 PM

Respectfully submitted

Gary M. Erickson ISIA Secretary

………a little housekeeping needed

During the last three years the ISIA Service Provider Directory, which may be accessed at www.IowaSheep.com, has become overgrown. It is time to take a serious look at the validity of each of the entries. In short, we need to clean out some clutter that has accumulated.

If you have been listed in this directory, please go online and check your submissions to verify that all of your information is correct. If you need to update your information or would like to submit new listing, please send email with corrections and/or new submissions to info@iowasheep.com no later than December 31, 2013. Also, if you notice an entry that is no longer good, i.e. someone no longer raising sheep or a business that has closed, please send that information in.

*Time To Renew*

It's time to start planning renewal of you Iowa Sheep Industry Association membership. Check the address portion on the back page of your Lamb & Wool newsletter for your expiration date. If yours expires January 1, 2014 you will be receiving a renewal notice in the mail. Do you or someone you know want to join the Iowa Sheep Industry Association? You will find a membership application on this page or you can also sign up online at www.IowaSheep.com.

Iowa Sheep Industry Association
Producer - Membership Application

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Address

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Email

Website

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Flock or Feedlot Size: ____________

Special Interests:

Enclose a check payable to ISIA for $30 • Mail completed application and check to:
Iowa Sheep Industry Association • 2461 W 84th St. • Colfax, IA 50054

Like ISIA on Facebook
Effect of DDGS on Ram Reproduction

by Susan Schoenian, University of Maryland Extension Sheep & Goat Specialist

Dried distiller's grains with solubles (DDSG) have become a popular feedstuff, due to the expansion of the ethanol industry and the increase in the price of cereal grains. However, it is recommended that growing bulls and rams not be fed DDGS, due to the fear of a negative effect on reproduction. Researchers at North Dakota State University conducted a study (supported by North Dakota Corn Council) to determine the effect of DDGS on the performance, carcass characteristics, and reproductive traits of growing rams.

One hundred and twenty crossbred (Suffolk × western white face) ram lambs received one of three ground diets: 1) 85% corn and 15% market lamb pellet; 2) 15% DDGS substituted for corn; or 3) 30% DDGs substituted for corn. Rams were weighed on consecutive days at the beginning and end of the trial and every 28 days. Scrotal circumference was measured on all rams at d 84, 96, and 117. Semen and blood samples were collected on a subset of the rams (n=48).

Dry matter intake (DMI) and average daily gain (ADG) increased linearly with the addition of DDGS in the diet (similar to other research). Carcass traits were not affected by dietary treatment. Change in scrotal circumference, serum testosterone concentrations, and sperm motility were not affected by dietary treatment. However, spermatozoa concentrations decreased linearly as DDGS increased in the diet.

More research is needed to determine the impact of DDGS on ram development.

Research paper can be found at: http://www.ag.ndsu.edu/hettingerrec/sheep/ then click on Individual Articles from 2013 Sheep Research Report.

Prosciutto and Cheese Stuffed Lamb Tenderloin

Recipe courtesy Giada De Laurentiis

Ingredients
- 4 (8-ounce) boneless lamb tenderloins
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 4 thin slices prosciutto or ham
- 4 thin slices (about 1/2-inch each) Pecorino Romano
- 8 whole fresh basil leaves
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/2 cup dry Marsala wine or dry sherry
- 1/2 cup low-sodium chicken stock
- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter, at room temperature
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh basil leaves

Directions

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F.

Using a paring knife, cut a 3-inch wide pocket, about 2-inches deep, into the side of each tenderloin. Season the cavity with salt and pepper. Stuff 1 slice of prosciutto, 1 slice of cheese, and 2 basil leaves into each pocket. Tie 1 piece of kitchen twine at each end and 1 piece in the center of each tenderloin to secure the filling. Season the stuffed tenderloins with salt and pepper.

In a large skillet, heat the oil over medium-high heat, add the marsala wine, and cook for 1 minute, scraping the brown bits that cling to the bottom of the pan with a wooden spoon. Add the chicken stock and cook until the liquid is reduced by half, about 4 minutes. Remove the skillet from the heat and whisk in the butter until melted.

To serve:
Remove the kitchen twine, slice the tenderloins and arrange on serving plates. Spoon the sauce over the sliced tenderloin and garnish with the chopped basil.
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