



Barn Cough in Sheep

Dr. J.D. Bobb

Barn Cough is the clinical description for a very common problem in feedlot lambs. There is little or no research information on this problem. There is little information in books or sheep texts on this subject. I would estimate that nearly 80% of producers that feed their lambs in the summer months have some level of this syndrome. The cough does not develop into pneumonia. The main concern with Barn Cough is that it will cause lambs to rectal prolapse which is when the rectum tears its connective tissue and protrudes through the rectum. I do not know for sure what causes the cough but suspect that it is a mycoplasma or virus. The lambs do not appear to be seriously ill or fevered, but when they first get up and run about the pen they will hunch up and cough.

Things that you can do to help reduce the severity of the problem are to improve the environment and reduce crowding. Lambs that stand in a barn on heavy feed rations with out adequate air movement are highly susceptible. Dusty lots or dusty feed rations that irritate the upper respiratory tract make the cough much more likely. Lambs that stand on a wet manure pack with a lot of ammonia odors are also more susceptible. Prevent over crowding of lambs if they are to be fed in a barn. High levels of ammonium chloride in the feed also can irritate the airways. Five pounds of ammonia chloride per ton is the correct dose for urinary calculi prevention.

Treatment is to sell any lambs that are close to market weight and then treat the remainder of the pen with sulfadimethoxine in the water. The lambs will begin to cough again in about three weeks, so you need to repeat the selling and treatment program. Be careful to follow strict antibiotic withdrawal times when giving antibiotics to market lambs. There are other antibiotics that work effectively on smaller flocks where the producer can give injections, but in nearly every case the cough will return in two to three weeks.

Barn Cough will go away in the fall as the weather turns colder, or I also suspect that the lamb's immunity system finally develops adequate immunity. Replacement ewe lambs or breeding ram lambs seem to develop lifetime immunity when they reach the 150-175 pound weight in the fall of the year. I am not sure if the reduction of the cough is due to weather changes or the development of immunity. The pattern of this barn cough syndrome is very predictable year after year.

The worst cases are always in fast growing lambs on high concentrate rations that are crowded and often have access to a shed where they all want to lay. Shade is important in the summer heat, but lambs that can lie outside in the breeze under the shade of a tree will be much less likely to develop barn cough than lambs that lay in the barn.

KHSI 2011 Expo Schedule

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE—PIPESTONE, MINNESOTA

Thursday, September 15

- * Optional Tour: Meet at the Hotel at 7:30 AM to Board the Bus
- * Tour sheep production farms in the Pipestone Sheep Project
- * 5:00 p.m. Expo Sale Sheep check-in at Pipestone Fairgrounds
- * 6:30 p.m. Pipestone Vet Clinic will provide a meal for Expo Attendees at the Kennedy Farm

Friday, September 16

Events at the Pipestone Vocational Technical School & Pipestone Fairgrounds

- * AM—Vocational Technical School

Educational Sessions. Topics include health, nutrition, and marketing

Speakers include, Mike Caskey & Philip Berg of MN West Technical College; Drs. G.F. Kennedy, J.D. Bobb, J.L. Goelz of Pipestone Veterinary Clinic; Dion VanWell—Watertown, SD Lamb Feeder and Marketer

- * Lunch.....Catered by “Tu Phat Girls”
- * PM.....Vocational Technical School, educational sessions continued
- * KHSI Annual Membership Meeting

At Pipestone Fairgrounds

6:00 p.m.....Dinner catered by “Tu Phat Girls”

Saturday, September 17

Events at Pipestone Fairgrounds

8:30 a.m.....View Sale Animals

9:30 a.m.....Sessions on Conformation & Soundness

12:00 noon..Sale—Registered Katahdin Rams & Ewes Sale, followed by Commercial Katahdin Ewe Sale

2:00 p.m.....Hair Coat Inspectors Training. Will start 1 hour after the end of the Expo Sale.

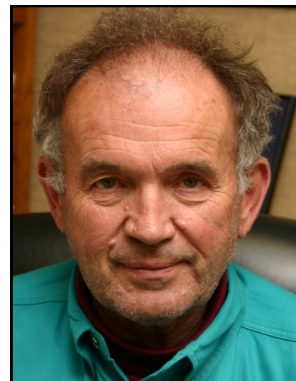
“Tanner Crab fishing in Alaska”



Straight Talk

Welcome from Alaska, we arrived yesterday, two days removed from the Midwest in Sedalia. Sheep sales were good this year. Our sheep were received well in the Katahdin Sale and we were able to purchase the Champion Ram so we were well pleased with the trip to Sedalia. We were accompanied by Bruce Drew and family. Bruce has sheared our sheep when they needed it over past years. He and his brother have a wether flock and have been very successful in working with the youth of their community involving sheep to improve life's experiences. Bruce had never been to Sedalia and wanted to go, I think he will be back. Sure made life much easier for this old man, I really enjoyed the experience.

Larry Mead was honored for managing the sale for 48 years. What a contribution he has made over the years, what a unique and outstanding individual. Thank you Larry for continuous and unabated support of the purebred sheep industry.



Of sheep and shows the Katahdin people have not made the Midwest Show and Sale a sanctioned show. As a Katahdin member I find this disappointing. The Katahdin Expo to be held in Pipestone this fall will not involve the placing of sheep for sale order. Sheep will be sold by age, oldest first. Difficult for auctioneer and more difficult for people wanting to buy the sheep. The show ring is a very integral part of promoting any breed. We show in the other breed class in Minnesota what an excellent way to promote the breed and compare to the other breeds. The Katahdin breed has made tremendous strides and is now competing with other sheep for its place in the market place. No longer can it afford to hide behind NSIP and the Scrapie Program to keep a good old boys club alive. It is break out time, this is a sheep that is badly needed by the sheep industry in the midwest and other areas of the country. One has to marvel and admire the people that have developed and promoted the breed often in the face of harsh criticism but they do have to learn to accept positive change. One must remember we once farmed with horses not tractors. In 50 years of veterinary practice the change is almost unbelievable and to be successful you have to accept it and implement it.

Plans for the Katahdin Expo in Pipestone are taking place and we expect to have an excellent educational program involving nutrition, feeding by products, sheep industry review, lamb feeding and marketing, use of guard dogs and health. Two well managed farms will be targeted for tours, one with high inputs and one with low inputs. The farm tours will be on Sep. 15th, educational programs on Friday the 16th with sale on Saturday. There will be a session on conformation and soundness as well on Saturday. The Sale starts at 12:00 noon followed by hair coat inspectors training at 2:00. You need not be a Katahdin person to enjoy and benefit from this meeting, these programs will target anyone in the sheep business and is an opportunity to gain information about Katahdins as well. Everyone is welcome and everyone is invited.

I am now placing the most interesting and timely askavet questions on facebook, a link you can find on our web site. You may receive the sheep letter electronically as well as hard copy. We are working on lists presently.

The most often asked and most recent questions revolve around coccidiosis. There are a couple of remarks I feel compelled to make. First is that the coccidia that infests sheep is not the same one that infests goats. Coccidiosis is probably the most important disease in goats and Rumensin is approved for use in goats. Rumensin I believe to be the most effective and cost effective drug to prevent coccidiosis in sheep and goats. Deccox is a good preventative as well and has an advantage in sheep that 2# of a 6% product can be mixed with 50# of loose salt and be fed as a preventative. Corid has no value that I can perceive, it is a preventative that works in the middle of the cycle and therefore doesn't have any value in treating clinical coccidiosis. Three drugs have value in clinical coccidiosis, sulfamethazine, sulfadimethoxine and SQX. Unfortunately SQX is not currently available, it was very cost effective. The other two do have an advantage that they are adsorbed systemically and will help fight a concurrent bacterial infection that commonly occurs such as pneumonia. Antibiotics such as Nuflor may be indicated as well for secondary infection. Deccox may be doubled or tripled in early creep feed and labled as a supplement in order to get adequate consumption for prevention. I like to feed Rumensin 15 mg per head per day to the ewe flock prior to lambing to help prevent toxoplasmosis, this reduces exposure to coccidiosis as well. Deccox in the growing and finishing rations for lambs and kids is a must. Biggest problem generally occurs this time of year in late lambs three weeks to weaning. Treatment and dosage options are listed as a management tip page 11 in our catalog.

I will be back for a week in July for the National Rambouillet Show and Sale in Pipestone, State Fair in August and answering sheep questions daily on location at Port Lions, Kodiak AK.

It's a little chilly here today, I guess we will put out some crab pots. Not like the dangerous catch but a lot of fun. As I type this, I am watching subsistence fishermen net red salmon in the bay in front of the lodge.

OOPS!!!! We made a mistake, we did not get the free freight/handling charge policy in place as planned because of a computer issue. We have decided to offer you an even better deal—free freight and no handling charge!! Only exceptions—oversize and overweight items. Thank you for your understanding—G.F. Kennedy

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Veterinary services, procedures, biologicals, and drugs mentioned in this publication represent the personal opinions and clinical observations of the contributing author. They are in no way intended to be interpreted as recommendations without the consent of the producers own practicing Veterinarian. We strongly urge that producers establish a patient-client-veterinarian relationship that allows extra-label use when there are no drugs approved for treatment or if approved drugs are not effective. This procedure allows veterinarians to go beyond label directions when "prudent use" is necessary. The limited availability of drugs and biologics in this country is a major factor in restricting the growth of the sheep industry and allowing producers to compete in the world Market place.



Now's the time to Vaccinate!

Dr. Kennedy—

"In my own flock I vaccinate for vibrio. Thirty days prior to breeding the first time, followed by a second shot at mid gestation, subsequent years I give a booster at mid gestation. This in an important tool aiding in the prevention of late term abortions."

Campylobacter Fetus- Jejuni Bacterin—Product # 5253

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