**SMALL RUMINANTS – SHEEP & GOATS**

### Sheep

**Ecthyma**

Also known as: ORF, Scabby Mouth, Sore Mouth, Contagious Pustular Dermatitis. It is a specific dermatitis of sheep caused by a poxvirus. Once exposed, there is long-lasting immunity. **This disease is transmittable to humans.**

- Caused by a virus
- Ulcers develop on the lips and tongue in lambs and also on the udders in ewes
- Vaccination is important especially in animals that will be transported to shows or fairs

- Isolation of infected sheep also helps control the disease
- Can infect people

### Caseous Lymphadenitis (CLA)

- Caused by bacteria
- Abscesses in the lymph nodes and may affect the lungs, liver, kidneys, and spleen
- Shearing wounds spread the disease
- Disinfecting clippers between animals is an important bio-security practice

### Ringworm

Also called Club Lamb Fungus. Caused by fungi and generally causes almost no injury to animals. Efforts to prevent its spread are made because it is highly infectious. **This disease is transmittable to humans.**

- Caused by a fungus
- Infected skin shows scabby circular areas
- Most species can be transmitted to humans
- Treat with skin disinfectants or fungicides

### Entropion

Inversion, or turning inward, as of the margin of the eyelid. This causes irritation, blepharospasm (excessive blinking), and keratitis.
Mastitis
Inflammation of the mammary gland. Although may be caused by chemical or physical agents, causes are almost entirely infectious, and mostly bacterial.
- Usually caused by bacteria
- Inflammation of the mammary gland
- Causes heat, swelling, and pain of the udder and abnormal milk (different consistency or bloody)
- Prevent by practicing clean milking techniques and by isolating infected animals

Pink Eye
Also known as Contagious Ophthalmia. Severe inflammation of the eye or of the conjunctiva.
- Caused by bacteria
- Excessive weeping of the eye(s), squinting, the cornea becomes cloudy or white
- Spread by direct contact, flies, and contaminated equipment
- Control with good bio-security practices such as insect control and disinfection of shared equipment

Polyarthritis
Inflammation of several joints. More common in very young animals because of the frequency of navel infection and bacteremia and the immaturity of the arthroidal tissues.
- Caused by bacteria
- Arthritis of one or more joints, sometimes producing pus
- Pathogen enters body through umbilicus or during castrating or tail docking
- Prevention includes cleaning and care of umbilicus and open wounds

Foot Rot
- Caused by bacteria
- Lameness, fever, foul odor
- Bacteria live in manure and mud
- Prevention is key
- Can be controlled by maintaining dry, clean conditions, regular foot trimming, and isolation of infected animals

Enterotoxaemia
- Caused by bacteria
- Symptoms include bloody diarrhea, staggering, blindness, and sudden death
- Vaccination reduces mortality caused by this disease
- With any case of diarrhea, consult with your veterinarian for proper diagnosis and treatment
**Scrapie (a transmissable spongiform encephalopathy)**
- Caused by a prion, primarily transmitted from ewes to lambs
- Itching, tremors, weight loss, behavior and gait changes, rubbing, and wool loss
- Testing is available for live animals
- Washington State requires tagging of show sheep with a scrapie ID # as part of the National Scrapie Eradication Program

**Blackleg**
- Caused by bacteria found in the soil
- Lameness, loss of appetite, rapid breathing, depression, high fever, lameness and swellings
- Affects young lambs
- Not transmitted between animals
- Vaccination is the key bio-security practice used in prevention

**Coccidiosis**
- Caused by a protozoa
- Lambs 3-6 weeks of age
- Diarrhea, rough coat, loss of appetite, emaciation, bloody manure
- Leads to poor growth
- Prevention is key, keeping the lambs’ environment clean and dry helps eliminate parasites

**Any of the following clinical signs may be an indication for preventing the animal from being shown:**
- Abscesses
- Diarrhea
- Lameness
- Nasal Discharge (abundant or cloudy)
- Eye Discharge (abundant or cloudy)
- Ear Discharge
- Signs of Parasites (Very thin or pale gums or pale inside the eyelid)
- Open Wounds
- Woolrot/Rainrot – Wool or hair easily removed

*Veterinary Medicine Extension, College of Veterinary Medicine, WSU*  
P.O. Box 646610, Pullman WA 99161-6610  
VetExtension@vetmed.wsu.edu

WSU Extension programs and employment are available to all without discrimination.  
Evidence of noncompliance may be reported through your local WSU Extension office.