



Farm Veterinary Solutions

# BORDERS DISEASE (BDV)

## FACT SHEET

### Borders is an iceberg disease.

This means that the scale of the disease is not visible to us as a clinical problem such as a case of mastitis or lameness.

Flocks affected with borders will see a high barren rate and abortions as well as lambs with low birth weights, congenital defects and poor survival rates. A very distinct sign of borders is lambs born with 'hairy shakers' which occurs when they become infected in the womb. The nervous system is affected causing tremors and they develop a coarse hairy coat rather than the normal wool coat.

### Transmission

When a non-pregnant ewe is exposed to the virus it is unlikely to have any affect other than enable them to develop a degree of immunity. However, pregnant ewes are far more susceptible.

It is spread by bodily secretions including:

- Ingestion of respiratory droplets.
- Faeces of PI lambs (continuously shedding).
- In some cases semen.

### Prevention and Management



Maintaining good stock boundaries between neighbours and a closed flock.



Do not retain infected lambs for breeding (will produce more PIs)



Blood screening of cull ewes and/or replacements.



Purchasing stock from borders free flocks.

### Diagnostics and Treatment

Clinical signs of hairy shakers can be obvious.

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Blood testing - antibody or antigen testing available

If testing is based on abortions or barren ewes it is also useful to test for other causes simultaneously such as EAE/Toxo

Unfortunately there is NO treatment or vaccination for the disease. Culling PI animals (antigen positive) is the only method of control.



To read more about Borders and iceberg diseases in sheep!



SCAN ME

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