



Farm Veterinary Solutions

CASEOUS LYMPHADENITIS (CLA)

FACT SHEET

Caseous Lymphadenitis (CLA) 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. It is a bacterial disease with incidence increasing with age causing enlarged lymph nodes and has two main forms:

- Seeing lymph node enlargement under the neck or over the shoulder blades.
- Or wasting disease caused by abscesses throughout the body. Coughing if the lungs are involved, reproductive failure, poor condition, poor milk, poor wool.

Transmission

CLA enters through skin wounds or via an oral or respiratory route. It can survive in the environment for a long time - in some cases up to 20 weeks!

- Transmission occurs directly during close confinement or indirectly, e.g. via shearing equipment and dipping.
- Fighting, causing skin lesions is the major means of disease transmission between rams.
- It is very contagious between animals with clinical signs (enlarged lymph nodes).

Prevention and Management



Vaccination



Biosecurity - keep a closed flock; isolation of new stock and affected animals.



No evidence of spread in semen - artificial insemination has less risk than new rams.



Check the flock when handled for enlarged lymph nodes.



Careful hygiene at shearing and dipping - young to old, clean to dirty.

Diagnostics and Treatment

Blood sampling for antibody - only sensitive once the body has produced antibodies so not 100% reliable.
Gold standard - culture pus from abscesses.
Unfortunately there is NO treatment for the disease.
Culling and eradication is the best case for the flock as well as snatching lambs at birth.



To read more about CLA and iceberg diseases in sheep!



SCAN ME



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