



Farm Veterinary Solutions

MAEDI VISNA (MV)

FACT SHEET

Maedi Visna (MV) 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.

There are many far reaching problems that lurk under the surface in the form of increased ewe/lamb mortality, reduced conception rate and increased culling.

Transmission

MV is a viral disease with a long incubation period that can take several years to become clinically apparent. IT is spread by:

- Touching the mouth or nose of infected sheep both directly and indirectly from grazing and troughs.
- Cross contamination from needles or drench guns.
- Feeding lambs with infected milk and colostrum.

Prevention and Management



Maintaining good stock boundaries between neighbours.



Avoiding sharing milk and colostrum from ewes with unknown MV status.



Screening test to identify if thinner cull ewes in the flock have MV.



Purchasing stock from MV accredited flocks.



Flock monitoring scheme to identify the early infection and limit the spread of disease.



Accreditation schemes with full biosecurity protocol and regular testing to prove the flock is MV free.

Diagnostics and Treatment

Blood sampling will identify infected animals as well as examination of the lung tissue at post mortem.

Unfortunately there is NO treatment or vaccination for the disease. Although MV has a long incubation period and timeline, it is ultimately fatal.

Management and prevention is the only way to control.



To read more about MV and iceberg diseases in sheep!



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