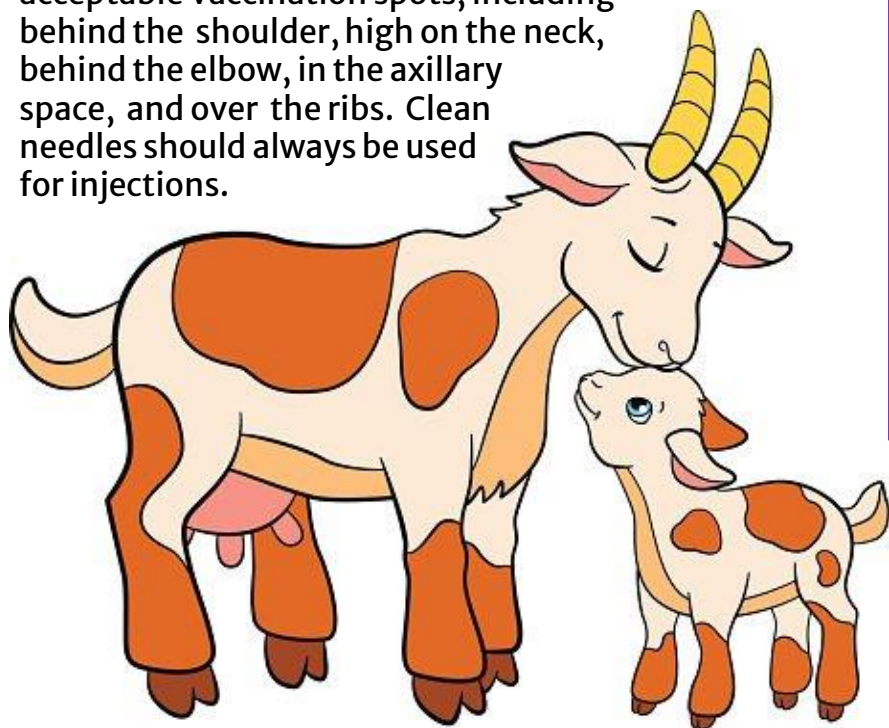


Vaccinating for *Clostridial diseases*

While there are many vaccines you can give to sheep and goats, the only universally-recommended ones are those used to protect against clostridial diseases. The preferred vaccine is usually CDT (toxoid). It protects against enterotoxemia (“overeating disease”) caused by *Clostridium perfringens* types C and D and tetanus caused by *Clostridium tetani*. 7 or 8-way vaccines provide protection against additional clostridial diseases, including malignant edema and black leg.

Clostridial vaccines should be given subcutaneously (under the skin), using a short, small-gauge needle. (e.g., half-inch, 20-gauge). There are many acceptable vaccination spots, including behind the shoulder, high on the neck, behind the elbow, in the axillary space, and over the ribs. Clean needles should always be used for injections.



Newborns get antibodies to clostridial diseases from the colostrum when their dams have been vaccinated. Colostral immunity is maximized when dams are vaccinated every year in late pregnancy. Two doses of the vaccine are required if ewes/does were not previously vaccinated.

Lambs/kids should receive their first clostridial vaccine when they are 4–8 weeks of age, followed by a booster 3–4 weeks later. Feeder lambs/kids should receive two vaccinations.



Toxoids vs. antitoxins

Toxoids provide longer-lasting immunity. They prevent disease. Antitoxins provide immediate short-term immunity. They are used for treatment.



It's a good idea to give rams, bucks, and pet wethers annual boosters, too.