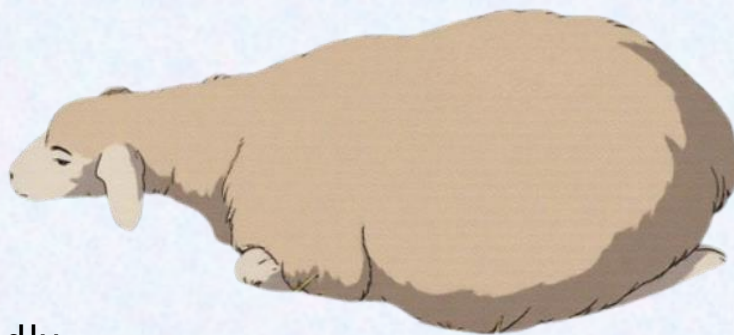


PREGNANCY TOXEMIA

Also called twin lamb disease, lambing sickness, ketosis, and fatty liver syndrome

Pregnancy toxemia is one of the most common diseases of sheep and goats. It is a metabolic disease that occurs in late gestation due to a negative energy balance caused by the increased energy demands of rapidly growing fetuses. Females carrying multiple fetuses are at greatest risk. The disease can affect individuals or a percent of the flock or herd.



Fatty liver syndrome

Due to insufficient energy intake (low blood glucose), the female begins to mobilize body fat. When the liver can't break down all the fat, it makes toxic ketone bodies, which the ewe/doe is unable to clear in time.

Causes

- Low blood glucose
- Negative energy balance
- Low quality forage
- Inadequate intake of energy (TDN) during late gestation
- Decreased rumen capacity due to fetal growth and intra-abdominal deposits
- Stress can trigger

Symptoms (many days)

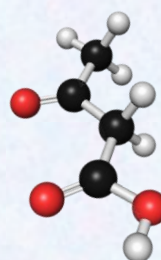
- Lags behind
- Separation
- Off-feed
- Lethargy
- Nervous signs
- Teeth grinding
- Recumbency
- Death

Treatment

- Oral administration of energy products
- Subcutaneous injection of glucose products
- Intravenous injection of glucose
- Induction of parturition or abortion.
- Caesarian section to remove lambs.
- Euthanasia

Prevention

- Minimize stress
- Proper nutrition during late gestation
- Adequate intake of energy (TDN) in late gestation
- Aim for a body condition score of 3 or 3+ at the time of lambing/kidding
- Sufficient bunk space



Ketone bodies can cause a sweet breath.

