



OVINE CHLAMUDIOSIS

Enzootic Abortion or EAE in Sheep and Goats

Ovine enzootic abortion results from *Chlamydomphila abortus* infection. The primary source of infection is infected sheep shedding the organism during lambing, specifically in birth fluids. This can occur in newly infected sheep or previously infected carrier sheep that aborted in a prior pregnancy. If you come across a sheep abortion incident, establishing a definitive diagnosis is crucial since various causal agents contribute to the abortion syndrome.

CAUSES OF EAE

EAE (Enzootic Abortion of Ewes) in sheep and goats is caused by an organism called *Chlamydomphila abortus*, which is now classified as *Chlamydia abortus*. This bacterium is responsible for inducing abortion in pregnant ewes and does. The primary source of infection is infected sheep or goats that shed the organism during lambing or kidding in the birth fluids. Newly infected animals or previously infected carriers that experienced abortion during a previous pregnancy can transmit the infection to susceptible animals, leading to the occurrence of EAE in the flock or herd.

PREVENTION OF EAE

To prevent EAE in sheep and goats:

- Vaccinate with *Chlamydia abortus* vaccine.
- Practice strict biosecurity measures.
- Test and monitor regularly for the bacterium.
- Isolate aborting animals immediately.
- Clean and disinfect lambing/kidding areas.
- Ensure proper nutrition and management.
- Avoid overcrowding in birthing areas.



***This is a
Notifiable disease***

SYMPTOMS OF EAE

Symptoms of Enzootic Abortion of Ewes (EAE) in sheep and goats may include:

- Abortion
- Stillbirth
- Retained Placenta
- Reduced Fertility
- Reproductive Disorders.

TREATMENT OF EAE

Currently, there is no specific treatment for Enzootic Abortion of Ewes (EAE) caused by *Chlamydia abortus* in sheep and goats. Once the infection is established, it is challenging to eliminate from the animals' systems. Therefore, the focus is on prevention rather than treatment. Be sure to contact your veterinarian if there's any suspicion of EAE in your herd.

Sources

Abortion. MSD Animal Health Republic of Ireland. (2020, August 26). <https://www.msd-animal-health.ie/species/sheep/>

Factsheet provided by:

**The Idaho Sheep & Goat
Health Board**

