

## Health and Disease Issues

### Pleurisy / Pneumonia

Pneumonia is an acute infectious disease that causes widespread losses from death, reduced live weight, treatment costs and unthriftiness among survivors.

Pneumonia occurs in all breeds and crosses. It is more common in lambs 5 to 7 months old and young nursing lambs.

#### **Predisposing Factors:**

Pneumonia may be caused by both bacterial and viral organisms. Risk and incidence are increased during periods of:

- High humidity and/or excessive heat
- Dust or damp bedding

#### **Signs and Symptoms:**

Pneumonia strikes quickly. The first sign of the disease may be sudden deaths within 2-3 days of infection. More often, affected animals will exhibit the following symptoms during the first 5-6 days of an outbreak:

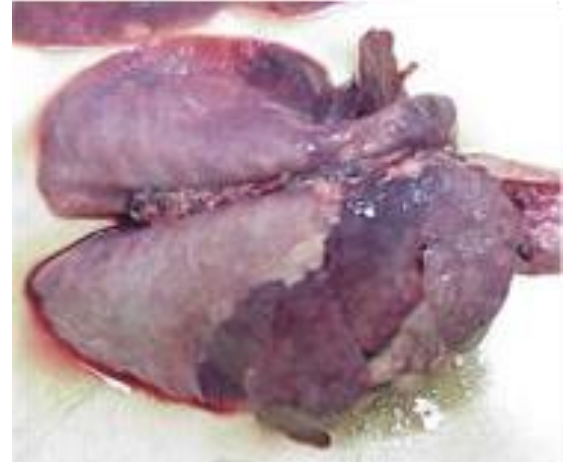
- Fever of 41-42°C with laboured and rapid breathing
- Nasal discharge
- Droopy ears and lowered head
- Lack of appetite
- Loss of weight
- Coughing and lameness (caused by arthritis).

#### **Control and Prevention:**

Effective management of pneumonia requires reducing stress factors.

#### **Treatment:**

Antibiotics are the best way to achieve rapid response and recovery.



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