

Health and Disease Issues

Salmonellosis

Predisposing Factors:

Outbreaks of salmonellosis are usually associated with:

- Over-crowding
- Food deprivation for more than 36 hours
- Stress related factors including transport
- Consuming feed or water contaminated with causal bacteria.

Stress is a key factor in most outbreaks of salmonellosis, increasing susceptibility to infection and increasing the number of bacteria passing out in the faeces.

Signs and Symptoms:

The disease generally occurs in outbreaks with morbidity rates of 5% to 30% and cause mortality rates of 25%. Some affected animals die within hours of the onset of signs; most die within 1 to 5 days.

Infected animals may appear depressed and dehydrated with severe, putrid, very fluid diarrhoea, sometimes with strands of mucosa and blood. Recovery in survivors is slow and these sheep lose considerable body weight

Control and Prevention:

Reduction of stocking density, removal of affected sheep and removal of the entire mob to another area may help limit an outbreak.

Preventative measures include:

- Minimising stress
- Reduce contamination of soil, flooring and water
- Isolate and treat infected animals
- Antibiotic treatment to control outbreak.

Treatment:

Antibiotics effective against Salmonella can be given either as an injection or drench.

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