

Health and Disease Issues

Pink Eye

Also known as contagious ophthalmia or conjunctivo-keratitis.

Predisposing Factors:

Outbreaks of pink eye are common in intensive feeding systems and are caused by specific bacterial infections. Pink eye is further aggravated by Vitamin A deficiency or irritations due to dust, flies, grass seed infestation or windy conditions.

Signs and Symptoms:

The eyeball of infected animals becomes white or pink, and if infected in both eyes the animal may be blind.



Control and Prevention:

Reduce dust by carefully selecting the site for the feedlot or containment area. Remove sheep and lambs showing symptoms (blindness in both eyes) and place them on to good feed out of the feedlot or containment area. Check all eyes for grass seeds when introducing animals to the feeding system.

Treatment:

Unless the condition is severe and results in ulceration of the cornea, most sheep will recover if left alone. Ensure access to feed and water and any remove grass seeds from the eye if present.

Antibiotic ointment should be used in severe cases.

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