

NADIS Abortion in Ewes

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With thanks to Phil Scott for some of the photographs and our sponsors **Quality Meat Scotland**, **EBLEX** and **CEVA Animal Health**



Time of Abortion

Early Pregnancy

(failed implantation –
return to oestrus late
lambers or empty
ewes at scanning)

Mid Pregnancy

(Reabsorptions –
empty ewes at
scanning)

Late Pregnancy

Abortions (ewes may
or may not be
unwell)

“PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE”

Plan for health with your vet - get a veterinary health plan

NADIS

Animal Health Skills

What Should You Do?

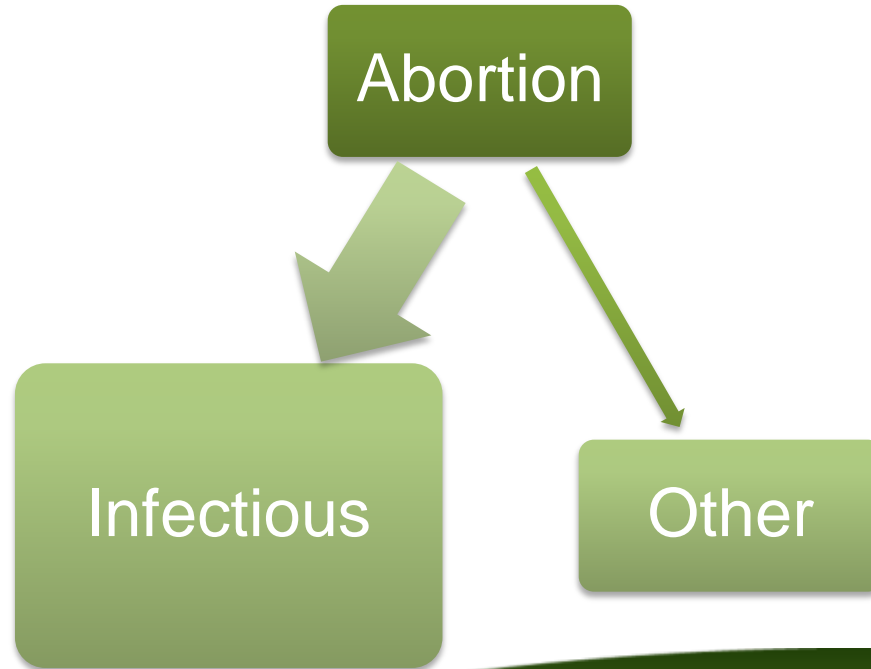
1. Isolate the aborted ewe from the rest of the flock.
2. Collect the lamb and any placenta, bedding or other contaminated material.
3. **Do not allow any contact between aborting ewes or aborted material and anyone who may be pregnant.**
4. Contact your vet and discuss feasibility of investigating the cause of the abortion by post mortem at APHA (foetus and placenta required).



Vaccinate with Cevac® Chlamydia
before abortion storms happen



What Causes Abortion?



Infections Which Cause Abortion in Ewes

- Chlamydia (Enzootic Abortion) EAE
- Toxoplasmosis
- Campylobacter
- Border Disease
- Listeria
- Q-fever
- Salmonella



The Most Serious Pathogens

Salmonella

- Causes disease in people and sheep.
- Often fatal in ewes as well as abortion.
- Source of infection often difficult to establish.

Chlamydia (Enzootic)

- The most common cause of abortions and abortion storms.
- Can cause abortion in women exposed to sheep abortions.



Toxoplasmosis and Listeria

Toxoplasmosis

- Transmitted by cats contaminating feed stocks.
- Vaccination to prevent in response to risk assessment.



Listeria

- Poor quality, contaminated silage is major risk factor.



Campylobacter and Border Disease

Campylobacter

- Cyclical pattern of disease as flock immunity wanes over time.
- Prevention very difficult, follow the same hygiene rules, isolating ewes and preventing contact with infected material.



Border Disease

- Causes high empty rates as well as some abortions.
- Very similar to BVD in cattle but no approved vaccine.
- Biosecurity is essential to prevent major impact on fertility in a naïve flock.



Vaccination

Chlamydia (EAE) & Toxoplasma

- Vaccination provides the best protection in infected flocks.
- Ewes can only be vaccinated prior to breeding – always check the data sheet!
- Infection enters the flock with infected ewes so purchasing from flocks with a known health status is highly recommended!!!



Summary

- Investigate with your vet any abortions and empty ewes at scanning to establish the cause.
- Isolate aborting ewes if possible and practice good hygiene to avoid infecting other ewes or people.

