

KNOW Before YOU SHOW



Good grooming. Top genetics. Hard work. A lot goes into a champion. But some exhibitors lose sight of one essential factor: Healthy stock.

Judges can recognize signs of common ailments, and, as a producer, you should, too. This sheet highlights some of the most common livestock diseases that surface in the showing.

By working with a veterinarian, then showing only healthy animals, you can prevent the spread of disease, protect your investment, and show like a champion.



Foot Rot



Foot rot is an infectious disease that can cause lameness. Usually the major sign of infection, lameness may not be seen in early stages. Initially, the area between the toes becomes moist and red. Then the infection invades the sole of the hoof. Foot rot causes a foul odor and may infect one or more feet at the same time. Not all lame animals have foot rot. Before beginning a treatment, or control program, consult a veterinarian. Other diseases that may be confused with foot rot are foot abscesses, foot scald, laminitis, founder, corns, injuries, and foreign bodies lodged between the toes.

Ringworm



Ringworm, also known as club lamb fungus, is a fungal disease that infects the outer layers of skin.

All domestic animals, including humans, are susceptible. Ringworm appears as patchy areas of skin irritation, causing a loss of hair. Oozing or redness may occur at the site. Sores provide opportunity for bacteria to cause secondary infections. Typically round and varied in size, lesions appear 10 days to 4 weeks after exposure. Patches may disappear in 4 to 8 weeks or persist for months. No topical medication will cure ringworm. Treatments may slow the course of recovery.





C.L.



Caseous Lymphadenitis (CL) is a chronic, contagious disease. Common symptoms include enlargements of one or more of lymph nodes. As the animal ages, abscesses often develop around the major organs and spinal cord. They may cause weight loss, pneumonia, and neurological signs. CL has no cure. A vaccine is available, but is only efficient in preventing the disease in sheep, not goats.

Mange



Mange is caused by tiny mites burrowing through the skin. These mites cause severe itching; infested animals rub vigorously. Mange is highly contagious and may spread by direct contact among animals. Infected skin may become inflamed, scabby and eventually raw and cracked. In addition, a secondary bacterial infection may occur where the mites have burrowed. External treatments are available; however, barns and facilities must also be disinfected and treated to kill the mites.



Orf



Orf is caused by poxvirus. Orf causes crusty lesions to form around the lips and mouth. Lesions can also appear on the nostrils, eyelids, face, vulva, teats, udders and feet. The virus is easily spread between animals, surviving for months in bedding and housing. It can be passed to humans who come in contact with infected animals. A vaccine is available for this disease; however it should be administered a few months before a show to allow potential reaction lesions to heal and fall off.

Warts



Warts are a contagious disease spread by direct contact, insects and other carriers. The presence of warts frequently diminishes the value of the animal by damaging the hide. Warts are small cauliflower-shaped growths. Many species can contract some type of warts. Warts can sometimes be removed surgically. Vaccines are an effective control measure—especially in a herd situation. A veterinarian should be consulted to develop an effective long-term control program on the farm.



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