



The first meeting of the WeCAHN small ruminants network was held 20th October, 2021, with veterinary practitioners, laboratory scientists, provincial veterinarians, and industry representatives participating.

Clinical Impressions Survey Highlights

Respiratory disease: was reported Commonly to Very frequently by practitioners, with pneumonia the most frequently reported syndrome. *Pasteurella multocida* and *Histophilus somni* were reported diagnosed rarely by two practitioners.

Gastrointestinal disease: was reported diagnosed Commonly, with diarrhea and gastro-intestinal parasites reported Commonly or Very frequently by at least two practitioners. Diarrhea associated with *E. coli* was reported increasing relative to last year, by one practitioner. Coccidia and worm infections were also reported increasing by one practitioner.

Neurological disease was reported Commonly by 3 practitioners, with polio-encephalomalacia (a disease causing blindness and convulsions) the most frequently reported diagnosis.

Multi-systemic disease was reported Commonly, with anemia (low blood count) and caseous lymphadenitis reported Commonly to Very frequently by 2 practitioners.

Musculo-skeletal disease was reported Commonly to Very frequently, with foot rot and arthritis the most commonly reported foot and non-foot conditions, respectively.

Other conditions:

- Toxicity- rhododendron, night shade.
- Conformation issues leading to lameness.
- Gastro-intestinal disease associated with internal parasites.
- Lots of undifferentiated pneumonia .



Laboratory Highlights

Prairie Diagnostic Services: *Streptococcus plurianimalium*, considered by some to be an emerging pathogen (and also potentially capable of infecting people) was isolated from a lamb in July. The isolate genome has since been sequenced.

University of Calgary: Bacterial blood poisoning especially associated with *E. coli*, was the most frequent diagnosis from May – July 2021.

Animal Health Centre, B.C.: Bluetongue virus was reported in wild sheep and mule deer in August. An increase in Johne's disease testing in goats was noted, concurrent with increased social media interest in this topic.

Provinces

Saskatchewan: Anthrax was confirmed in sheep in RM of South Qu'Appelle, SK July 7 2021.

Manitoba 2 flocks were diagnosed with Cache Valley Virus last year – a first in Manitoba. Assistance was acquired on the diagnoses from the NCFAD (level 4 CFIA lab) in Winnipeg. The results did not become available until September.

Both flocks had more than 50% of animals with antibodies to the pathogen, suggesting that the exposure was widespread and not just limited to those who had clinical signs (abortions, still births, etc).