

## Goat Health Schemes

There are some diseases that can affect goats causing all manner of problems but more importantly death. These need to be kept under control to ensure these diseases do not spread. Here are the main diseases that our members test for.

### **Caseous lymphadenitis (CLA)**

Caused by bacterium *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis*, the disease is characterised by abscess development in the lymph nodes and other tissues. It's contagious through close confinement or, indirectly, via contaminated shearing equipment. They increase parasite susceptibility due to sheer lack of health, the abscess through the animal can condemn a carcass once on the hook.

### **Caprine arthritis encephalitis (CAE)**

It's a contagious viral disease of goats, the disease is typically spread from mother to kid through the ingestion of colostrum or milk. CAE virus may also be spread among adult goats through contact with body secretions including blood and feces. There are 5 major forms of CAE in goats: arthritis, encephalitis (inflammation of the brain), pneumonia, mastitis, and chronic wasting. The arthritic form of the disease is most common in adult goats, while the encephalitic form is most common in kids. The chronic wasting form of the disease can occur either separately or in addition to any other form of CAE.

### **Johne's**

This disease is a fatal gastrointestinal disease. It's caused by the bacterium *Mycobacterium avium* subspecies *paratuberculosis* (MAP), also known as paratuberculosis, this infection is contagious. There really are only two clinical signs of Johne's disease: rapid weight loss and diarrhoea, despite continuing to eat well, adult goats become emaciated and weak. Since the signs of Johne's disease are like those for several other diseases, laboratory tests are needed to confirm a diagnosis.

### **Scrapie**

Scrapie is defined as a fatal, degenerative, neurological disease that affects a sheep or goat's central nervous system. Scrapie is also highly contagious and can travel from sheep to sheep quickly. Scrapie can be transmitted via bodily fluids of the infected animals, most commonly from an infected ewe or doe to her offspring through the afterbirth or milk. It is important to be able to recognize an infected animal as soon as possible to prevent further contamination. There are signs more obvious are wool pulling, biting of limbs, hopping on rear legs.

If you suspect any of the above we always advise you to contact your vet.

There are schemes that can help you monitor your goats. One of these schemes is run by SAC and enables you to be accredited. You can test your animals without a scheme, to keep a clean and healthy herd.

## **SAC**

Scottish Agricultural College offer a range of services called The Premium Sheep and Goat Health Schemes (PSGHS) specially designed for Sheep and Goats. The different schemes include Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis (CAE) for goats, Caseous Lymphadenitis (CLA) testing & Pre-Sale testing and scrapie monitoring scheme. All these contribute to a healthy herd. For further information please see their website for details.