Pregnancy Diseases: Vibro

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Why do sheep abort?

- Sheep can have abortions for many reasons
  - Stress
  - Genetics (chromosomal abnormalities, etc.)
  - Health of the Mother
    - Weight of the mother (overweight/underweight) can influence disease states in third trimester
  - Abnormality of the Uterus
  - Infection
    - Four most common abortion diseases:
      - Chlamydia, Vibio, Toxoplasmosis, and Salmonella
Scientific name: *Campylobacter sp.*

Mode of Transmission: Discharged with membranes, uterine fluids, and fetus during abortion. Transmission occurs when a ewe ingests something that is contaminated with the organism.

Effects of induction of infection during different pregnancy:
- Early Pregnancy: Ewe will reabsorb fetus
- Mid Pregnancy: Abortion will occur 10-20 days post infection
- Late Pregnancy: Stillbirths and weak lambs
In general, 20% of ewes in a flock will abort following introduction of *Campylobacter*

- Some outbreaks have led to 80-90% of ewes aborting
- Older ewes may become immune
- 5-10% of the infected flock will continue to abort each year
Animals that are infected with *Campylobacter sp.* can be treated with daily antibiotics given IM to help prevent abortion.

- This treatment will have to be implemented every time an infected ewe is pregnant.
Treatment

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Prevention

- Vaccination of ewes is the best way to prevent vibrio outbreak
  - Vaccine is given 30 days prior breeding and repeated 60 to 90 days later.
If an Outbreak Occurs...

- Minimize the risk of spreading the infectious organism
  - Check feed and water supplies for sheep contamination
  - Sanitize feeding and watering equipment
  - Separate ewes showing signs of abortion and house them apart from the remainder of the flock
  - Do not feed ewes on ground
  - Vaccinate the remaining pregnant ewes for vibrio
  - Give antibiotics (chlortetracycline) for the remainder of the pregnancy to remaining pregnant ewes
  - If the outbreak is severe, inject all ewes with long-acting tetracycline (LA200) at the rate of 10mg/pound subcutaneously
Bibliography

