



Quality CPD

Upcoming CPD Courses - <https://www.wvsc.wales/cpd/>

- November 4th – Cattle Lameness (with Prof. George Oikonomou)
- November 18th – Pre lambing Sheep Module 2
- November 25th – Sheep and Beef Immunology

Parasitic gastroenteritis (PGE) was the most common diagnosis from ovine submissions in August with nine of our 16 submissions being attributed to PGE. Lamb condition loss and deaths was the main reason for submission.

Worm egg counts confirmed the diagnosis and the trichonstrongyle-egg count varied from 1200 to 43,800 eggs per gramme (e.p.g.). Advice included immediate treatments with effective anthelmintics and follow up flock health plan reviews to include parasite control plans and the use of faecal egg counting to monitor and inform treatment decisions. Anthelmintic resistance investigations were also advised in several cases.

Cobalt deficiency was confirmed in a lamb submitted from a group of 10 small male lambs that had been housed to finish. Six lambs had died from the group after a period of wasting. Gross necropsy revealed emaciation, diarrhoea, and crusty skin on the pinnae. A worm egg count revealed a heavy infestation of trichostrongyle-type worms (1,300 e.p.g.). A sample of liver was sent for Cobalt analysis which confirmed the diagnosis. The crusty pinnae were likely to be due to photosensitisation, secondary to liver damage due to the vitamin B12 deficiency. Cobalt deficiency is commonly seen in lambs with PGE at this time of year.



Fluke Watch - The Sustainable Control of Parasites in Sheep group (SCOPS) are urging farmers to test before treating for liver fluke this autumn. With the fluctuating rainfall experienced, the timing of peak fluke risk could be different to normal. Send your faeces samples to WVSC for testing.

An animal was submitted for postmortem examination (PME) in September because the local practitioner was concerned about **Severe Summer Scour Syndrome**. Two seven-month-old dairy heifers had died from a group of 30 that had all developed diarrhoea two to three weeks of being turned out. Anthelmintic and antibiotic treatment was unsuccessful, but feeding hay appeared to improve the clinical signs in most of the group.

At PME, oral and oesophageal ulceration and necrosis were observed (see figure 1). As with other cases of Summer Scour Syndrome diagnosed



Figure 1. Oesophageal ulceration in dairy heifer with *Severe Summer Scour Syndrome*.

in the UK and Ireland, there were negative test results for parasitic gastroenteritis, coccidiosis, salmonellosis, yersiniosis, BVD, MCF and IBR.

Histopathology by Toby Floyd (APHA Weybridge) confirmed severe, multifocal, subacute, ulcerative and necrotising stomatitis, glossitis and rumenitis, with intralesional bacteria likely to be opportunistic *Fusobacterium spp.* These changes in the alimentary tract were consistent with other recent cases of Summer Scours Syndrome at APHA Weybridge.

Severe summer scour syndrome can cause morbidity and mortality rates as high as 40% in

some groups. The current thinking is that there may be a dietary cause with cases occurring so soon after turnout, but is also likely to be multifactorial. If you think you may have similar cases then please get in touch with your local postmortem provider as APHA are keen to investigate this disease.

***Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae* (APP)** was diagnosed in two pigs submitted from a fattening unit after a period of chronic respiratory disease. Approximately 40 pigs had died with 20 deaths in the preceding four days. Approximately 8% of the weaned pigs were affected. Clinical signs included laboured breathing, coughing, nasal discharge, and purple discolouration of the skin. Although the deaths were predominantly in the fattening house piglets as young as five weeks old had been seen sneezing and there was an increase in the number of sows returning to oestrus. Antibiotics had been administered in the drinking water, but no improvement had been seen.

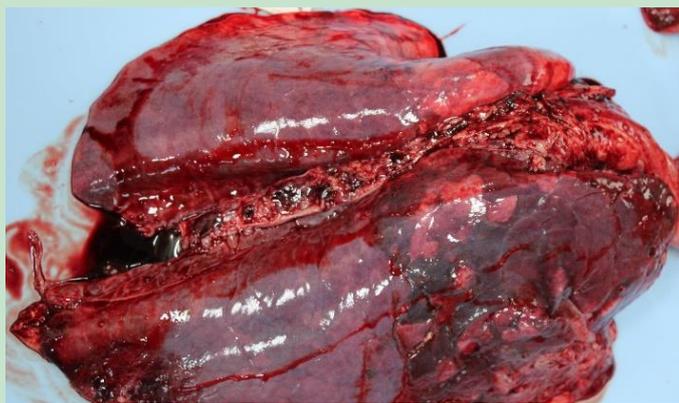


Figure 2. Cranioventral consolidation of pig lungs

Two pigs were submitted using the free government-paid carcase collection service. Gross postmortem examination revealed multiple purple irregular shaped discoloured areas on the skin. Fibrin adhesions between the caudal-ventral lung lobes and diaphragm and there was marked cranio-ventral consolidation and a fibrinous pericarditis.

Pasteurella multocida was cultured from a lung swab and injectable antibiotics were advised for treatment of similarly affected pigs. APP was suspected by histology and confirmed with PCR testing. APP often occurs secondary to previous porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) or swine flu so active surveillance for both diseases was advised.

Swine Flu testing is free of charge with APHA as part of their surveillance. Click [here](#) for more info.

Laryngeal chondritis was diagnosed in three separate submissions. The first submission was an adult Beulah ram that had been found dead.



Figure 3. Abscessation of the arytenoid cartilages

In the second submission one ram was submitted after two ram lambs were found dead, the breed was unspecified in this case. The third submission was a young Beltex ram lamb.

Laryngeal chondritis causes narrowing of the laryngeal lumen due to abscessation of the arytenoid cartilages. It is typically seen in short-necked breeds. Affected rams should not be used for breeding as research suggests there may be a genetic component.



WVSC Laboratory Testing

www.wvsc.wales/laboratory-services

We recently added Baermann's Lungworm testing to our portfolio. More tests will be announced soon!

Watch this space.

WVSC VIOs: Beverley Hopkins & Jon. King
Roger Daniel, Kate Hovers and Ian Davies

Wales Veterinary
Science Centre
Y Buarth, Aberystwyth,
Ceredigion, SY23 1ND



01970 612374

enquiries@wvsc.wales

<http://www.wvsc.wales>



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Please check the eligibility for **free carcase collection** via this website:

ahvla.defra.gov.uk/postcode/pme.asp

The suitability of submissions for a postmortem exam. must always be discussed with the WVSC duty vet.