

Enzootic Abortion Notes

In abortion cases ewes shed large numbers of the causative organism *C abortus*.

They are the source of infection to other ewes, which, if infected, will abort next year.

New born ewe lambs may also pick up infection and abort at their first lambing.

Aborted ewes **MUST** be isolated from other breeding stock.

Dead lambs and afterbirth must be removed from the farm for incineration.

Lambing pens where abortion has occurred **MUST** be completely cleaned and disinfected.

If ewe lambs are fostered onto aborted ewes they **MUST NOT** be retained for breeding.

Long acting Oxytetracycline reduces losses by reducing placenta damage but in some cases damage is too extensive and ewes still abort or produce sickly lambs.

Following introduction of EA into a flock, there are increased numbers of cases in subsequent years as the infection spreads. Affected ewes do not usually abort again but can excrete infection at oestrus. If infection has recently been introduced those ewes may be better culled.

Vaccination will reduce the impact of disease but not eliminate it especially in ewes exposed to infection in the previous lambing period.

EA can cause serious infection in pregnant women. Infection can be spread through handling ewes, feeding pet lambs and handling contaminated clothing. **NONE** of these tasks should be undertaken by pregnant women.