



IDENTIFICATION MODULE

DISEASES

Team Name: _____

You will be presented with five photographs. Each photograph will display a common health problem. Answer this section by filling in the gaps below.

1. PHOTO (1)

- What is this sheep suffering from? _____
- Cause: -

- Treatment: -

- Prevention: -

2. PHOTO (2)

- What is this sheep suffering from? _____
- Cause: -

- Treatment: -

- Prevention: -

3. PHOTO (3)

- What is this sheep suffering from? _____
- Cause: -

- Treatment: -

- Prevention: -

4. PHOTO (4)

- What is this sheep suffering from? _____
- Cause: -

- Treatment: -

- Prevention: -

5. PHOTO (5)

- What is this sheep suffering from? _____
- Cause: -

- Treatment: -

- Prevention: -



IDENTIFICATION MODULE

DISEASES ANSWERS

Contestant will be presented with five photographs. Each photograph will display a common health problem. They are to answer this section by identifying the health problem in each photo including the cause, signs, affects, treatment and prevention of each problem.

1. MASTITIS (ACUTE OR CHRONIC)

- **Cause:** - Bacteria, (*Staphylococcus aureus* and *Pasteurella hemolytica*) or It can be caused by physical injury or stress.
- **Treatment:** - Antibiotic injection.
- **Prevention:** - Good sanitation practice and close management of ewes. The udders of ewes should be examined after weaning and before breeding. Make sure lambs are milking out both teats and reduce water and all feed 1 to 2 days before weaning.

2. FOOTROT

- **Cause:** - Bacteria in the soil and in chronically infected feet. (Footrot is caused by the interaction of two anaerobic bacteria: *Bacteroides nodosus*, which can only live in the animal's hoof; and *Fusobacterium necrophorum*, which is a normal inhabitant of soil and sheep manure).
- **Treatment:** - Combination of hoof trimming, vaccination, foot bathing/soaking (Zinc Sulfate, Cooper Sulfate) and the use of antibiotic spray.
- **Prevention:** - Footrot is highly contagious, hooves should be regularly checked and trimmed and you should try and keep sheep from standing around in wet conditions for long periods of time.

3. FLY STRIKE

- **Cause:** - Where blowflies lay eggs on the skin of the sheep. Maggots then hatch from the eggs and eat into the skin causing sores. (Flies are attracted to odours, urine, faeces and bacterial rot).
- **Treatment:** - Shearing, dagging (crutching), use of fly strike powder (diazinon), fly Spray, fly traps can also help keep blowflies away from stock. You can also use numerous long acting insecticides (dipping).
- **Prevention:** - If you spot any signs of fly strike it is best to treat this early, by dagging/shearing the flock as most flies are attached to dirty, wet or injured wool/skin. Check the skin of sheep if you spot any signs of fly strike, treat any cuts or injuries and keep a close eye on these. Blowflies favour warm humid conditions so it is important to keep a good eye on your flock in these weather conditions. You can also use of insecticide chemicals (dips) to help prevent fly strike.

4. BEARING (VAGINAL PROLAPSE)

- **Cause:** - The cause of bearings is today still research, however it is suggested that they can be caused by high levels of potassium which can cause the muscular contractions of the gut to slow causing bearings. Other factors that can contribute also are; overfeeding before lambing, increased abdominal pressure during pregnancy, a full bladder, hormonal/metabolic imbalances, too much bulky feeds, lack of exercise, dystocia (trouble giving birth) in previous pregnancies.
- **Treatment:** - Insertion of a bearing retainer/harness and antibiotic injections (Seek veterinarian advice).
- **Prevention:** - Soil test for high potassium levels and if high sodium chloride (salt) can be feed (rock salt blocks). This has been found to reduce bearing % on farms. Bearings are easier to treat at an early stage so it is important to keep an eye on your ewes especially before and during lambing. The risk of bearings can be reduced by ensuring a steady supply but not an overabundance of quality pasture and by keeping sheep slightly active before lambing.

5. SCORE MOUTH (SCABBY MOUTH, PUSTULAR DERMATITIS, CONTAGIOUS ECTHYMA)

- **Cause:** - A virus causes scab formation on the skin, usually around the mouth, nostrils, eyes, ears, feet, limbs, udder, and genital areas. It first appears as tiny red nodules and then turns into scabs. Paddocks with thistles and gorse make it more susceptible for virus to get into cuts on skin.
- **Treatment:** - The virus will usually run its course in 1 to 4 weeks. You can apply disinfectant to lips however because the main infection is caused by a virus it does not respond to antibiotics and treatment is usually unrewarding. Vaccinations are available to prevent Sore mouth.
- **Prevention:** - Avoid grazing stock paddocks with thistles and gorse as the prickles make it more likely that the virus will get into the skin especially if this paddock has the virus present as the virus can survive for years especially in barns, pens, and on troughs, feeders and gates. Vaccinations are available to prevent Sore mouth.