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Pregnancy Toxaemia in Sheep Treatment Plan

Pregnancy toxaemia is a disease affecting sheep during late gestation. It is characterized by inappetence and dullness which may progress to the sheep becoming 'down'. Death can occur as a result of the condition. It is seen more often in older ewes and those carrying multiple foetuses. Pregnancy toxaemia is almost never observed in replacement ewe-lambs or yearlings lambing for the first time.

Affected Ewes

- 70mls of '4 in 1' under the skin
- 50ml Acetol (propylene glycol) twice daily for day 1, then 25mls twice daily from then onwards
- 160ml Vytrate Concentrate liquid or 1Vytrate sachet (mixed in 2 L of warm water) orally
- Offer feed- higher energy (grain) and hay
- Offer fresh clean water
- Injection of vitamin B12

The flock at risk

- Offer molasses and mineral licks
- Avoid stressing the mob ie. shearing/ yarding etc
- Offer higher energy supplements (optional)

Prevention

- Best to avoid having ewes over conditioned at lambing (aim for condition score of 3 out of 5)
- Ideally draft ewes that are expecting twins or triplets off and allocated them an appropriate ration to meet the demands of carrying multiple lambs.