

# Sheep and Goat Internal Parasites (who are the players?)

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#### **Overview of the problem**

- Gastrointestinal parasites are the number one health problem affecting sheep and goats
- Climate in HI is very permissive to most parasites, therefore our animals are at greater risk
- Goats are more susceptible than sheep
- Seeing more and more resistance to dewormers



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#### **HOST IMMUNITY**

Age	Production Status	Plane of Nutrition	<b>Relative Immunity</b>
Lambs	< 5 months parasite exposure	Well-fed	++
		Underfed	+
	> 5 months parasite exposure	Well-fed	+++
		Underfed	++
Ewes 12-24 months	Dry, non-lactating	Well-fed	+++++
		Underfed	****
	Lactating, single	Well-fed	+++
		Underfed	++
	Lactating, twins	Well-fed	++
		Underfed	+
Ewes 2 years and older	Dry, non-lactating	Well-fed	+++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++
		Underfed	+++++++++++
	Lactating, single	Well-fed	+++++
		Underfed	+++
	Lactating, twins	Well-fed	+++
		Underfed	++
	Lactating, triplets	Well-fed	++
		Underfed	+





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#### **College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources**

Parasites of Sheep







#### 5-point check for health

- **1.** Body condition
- 2. Jaw (swelling)
- 3. Diarrhea/dags
- 4. FAMACHA (eye)
- 5. Nasal discharge or coat appearance





#### Body Condition Scores – Sheep/Goats





#### Haemonchus contortus

- aka "Barber Pole Worm)
- Lives in the abomasum
- Can cause anemia, protein loss, bottle jaw (mandibular edema), chronic weight loss in adults, death (can be sudden)







Pathology of *Haemonchus contortus* in New World camelids in the southeastern United States: a retrospective review

Erin E. Edwards, Bridget C. Garner, Lisa H. Williamson



## Ostertagia (Teladorsagia) circumcincta

- aka Brown Stomach Worm
- Can cause diarrhea, weight loss, anemia
- Adult worms live in the abomasum; larvae destroy glands and cause nodules







#### Trichostrongylus axei

- aka Bankrupt Worm or Small Stomach Worm
- Can cause diarrhea, dehydration, bottle jaw, emaciation
- Adults live in the abomasum







#### Trichostrongylus colubriformis

- aka Hair Worm, Black Scour Worm
- Adults live in the small intestine
- Can cause diarrhea, bottle jaw, and poor growth





### Cooperia punctata

- aka Cattle Bankrupt Worm
- Adults live in the small intestine
- Can cause diarrhea, anorexia and poor growth





#### Eimeria spp.

- Coccidia
- Protozoal parasite
- Many different species and not all of them cause disease
- Can cause bloody diarrhea, death, poor growth
- Affects lambs/kids before and after weaning
- Sheep develop strong and lifetime immunity, but goats probably less so
- Associated with poor hygiene and management







#### Oesophagostomum columbianum

- aka Nodular Worm
- Adults live in the large intestine
- Can cause diarrhea







#### Strongyloides papillosus

- aka "Threadworm"
- Adults live in the small intestine
- Can cause diarrhea in young animals, can also be transmitted cutaneously or transmammary







#### Moniezia spp.

- Tapeworms
- Adults live in the small intestine
- Relatively nonpathogenic, though in large numbers can probably contribute to diarrhea or cause obstruction









#### Fasciola hepatica

- Liver Fluke
- Adults live in bile ducts in the liver
- Can cause hepatitis, death, anemia, weight loss, and predisposes to clostridial diseases
- Diagnose with fecal sedimentation or necropsy





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#### **Muellerius capillaris**

- Goat Lungworm
- Adults live in the lungs
- Can predispose to pneumonia
- Diagnose with Baermann technique or at necropsy

https://vet.uga.edu/ivcvm/courses/VPAT5316/01\_respiratorypa th/14\_parasitic/parasiticqza.html







#### Best place to get information online:

Wormx.info Acsrpc.org

Accipcies

**References for this presentation: Foreyt's Veterinary Parasitology Reference Manual and the above websites** 

