

Enzootic Abortion of Ewes - the most common sheep abortion in UK

Caused by *Chlamydia abortus*

35% of all ovine abortions 2012-2018; GB Sheep Disease Surveillance

Plan

- ✓ Source replacements from accredited flocks if available
- ✓ Source from as few flocks as possible
- ✓ Do not mix pregnant ewes
- ✓ Keep purchased ewes separate from home flock until after first lambing



Do NOT plan to use antibiotics

– this is only acceptable in the face of an outbreak or following a confirmed laboratory EAE diagnosis in the immediately preceding year.



#everylambcounts #planpreventprotect #EAE
#responsibleuse #vaccineswork

Prevent

- ✓ Isolate all aborting ewes
- ✓ Remove all aborted material & send samples for laboratory diagnosis
- ✓ Confirm diagnosis by blood-sampling aborted or empty ewes post lambing
- ✓ Clean, disinfect, remove & destroy abortion-contaminated bedding
- ✓ Do not foster ewe lambs onto ewes that aborted or had dead lambs
- ✓ Do not allow pregnant women access to the lambing shed



Protect

Vaccination

- ✓ Recommended for all flocks that purchase replacements or have sheep neighbours
- ✓ Give by 4 weeks before tupping
- ✓ Most ewes only need single dose to last their time in the flock
- ✓ Keep cool & use as directed

Remember that once EAE has been introduced to a flock, there are ewes that are programmed to abort. Subsequent vaccination will not immediately prevent every abortion. However, even if started after an outbreak, vaccination is still the most cost effective EAE control measure