

Ensuring the sale of high quality, healthy & disease-free rams

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 @FlockHealth



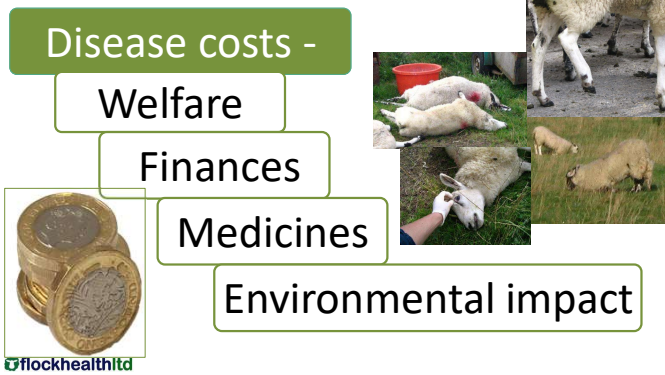
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Key importance to your flock -

- Health Status - know it, maintain it
- Risks – consider them, reduce high risk activities
- Reputation – maintain at all costs, transparency

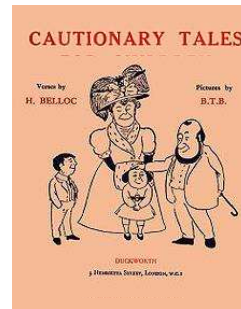


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A Cautionary Tale



"JIM who Ran away from his Nurse AND was Eaten by a LION!"

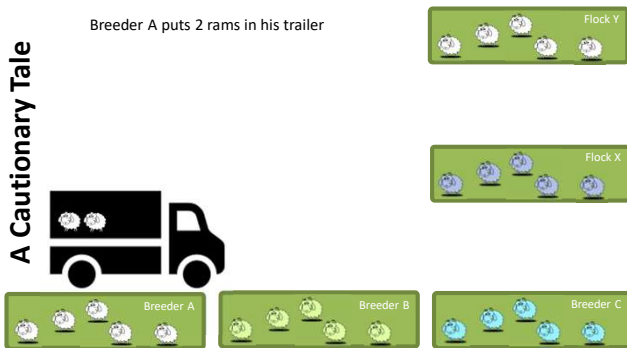


WARNING: Contains a Dangerous Beast and a Miserable End

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A Cautionary Tale

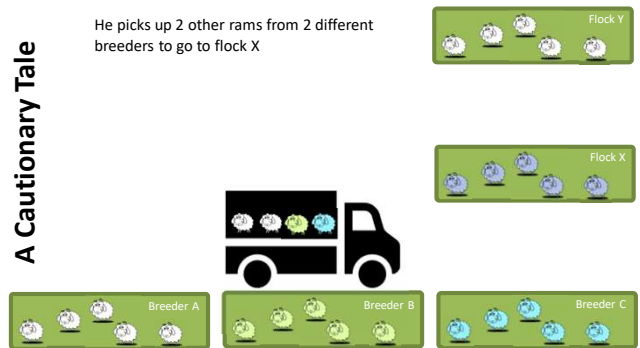
Breeder A puts 2 rams in his trailer



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A Cautionary Tale

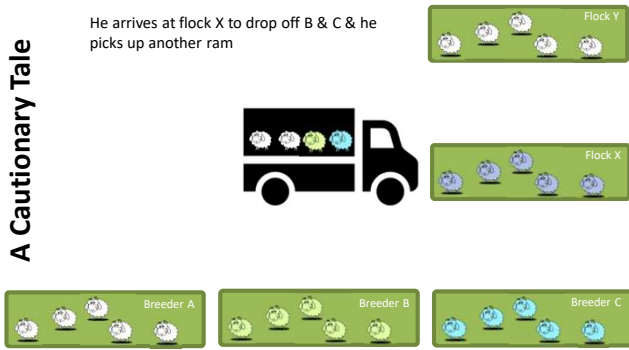
He picks up 2 other rams from 2 different breeders to go to flock X



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A Cautionary Tale

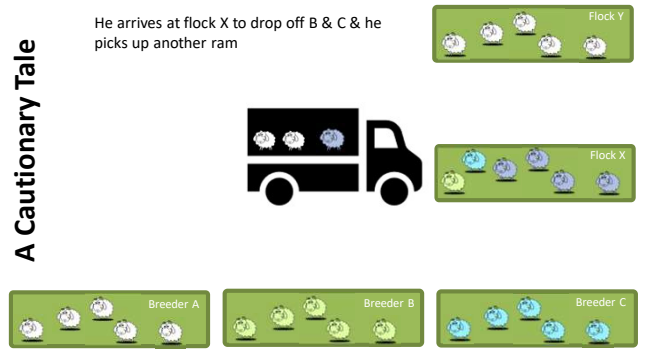
He arrives at flock X to drop off B & C & he picks up another ram



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A Cautionary Tale

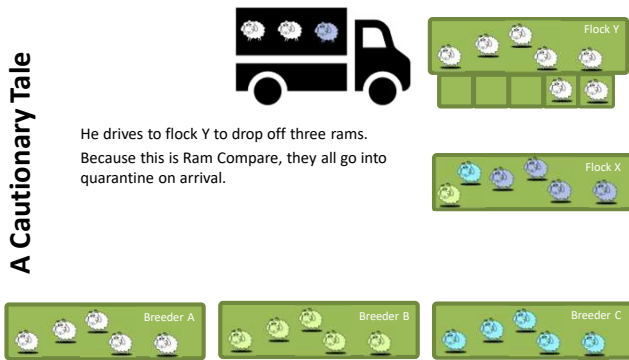
He arrives at flock X to drop off B & C & he picks up another ram



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A Cautionary Tale

He drives to flock Y to drop off three rams. Because this is Ram Compare, they all go into quarantine on arrival.



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A Cautionary Tale

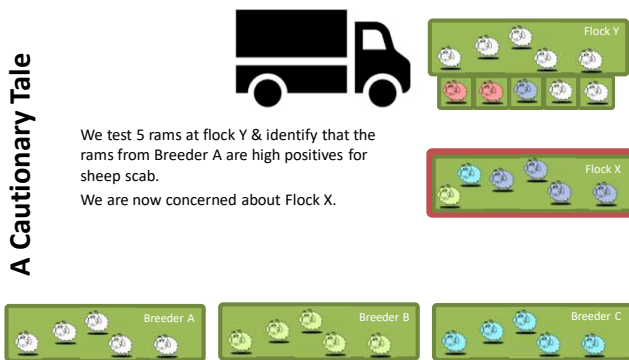
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10

A Cautionary Tale

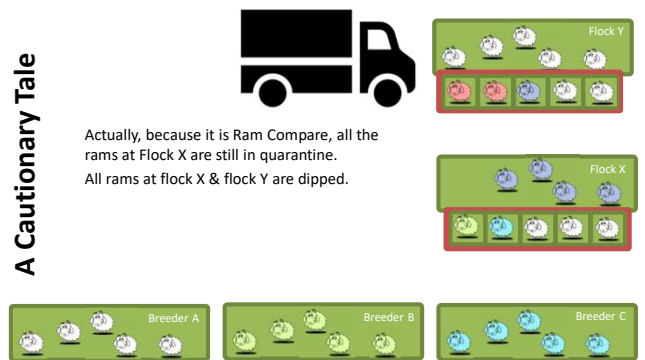
We test 5 rams at flock Y & identify that the rams from Breeder A are high positives for sheep scab. We are now concerned about Flock X.



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A Cautionary Tale

Actually, because it is Ram Compare, all the rams at Flock X are still in quarantine. All rams at flock X & flock Y are dipped.



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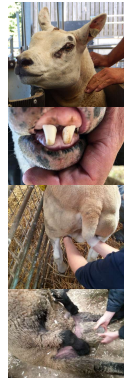
A Cautionary Tale



Breeder tests other rams at home – there are several more positive for sheep scab. He dips at home & has a number of embarrassing phone calls to make to his other customers.



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It is not just sheep scab!.... see vet comments from Ram Compare

Overall skin condition:

- Slight dermatitis
- Brisket sore
- Rubbed knees
- Warty prepuce
- Mild scrotal mange
- Active maggots!

Mouths/Body condition:

- Poor condition <2 or the opposite >4!
- Small ram
- Losing condition due to dental pain?
- Sharp incisors
- Central incisors widely spaced & poor BCS
- Slightly undershot

Testicles:

- One slightly swollen
- Soft or swollen epididymis
- Slightly soft – very soft
- Active maggots!

Feet/legs:

- Outer hoof hot, being treated
- Poor conformation of hoof
- Pus in heel
- Scald present in one or all hooves
- Corkscrew medial claw
- Active CODD!

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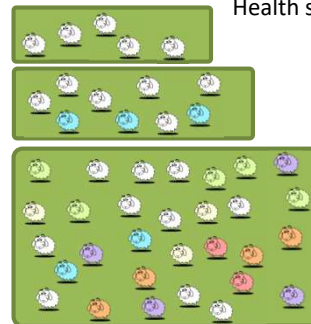
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Health status - be measured & evidence-based
- maintain status & reduce risk



Which diseases?

- Lameness (footrot, CODD)
- Sheep scab
- Maedi Visna (MV)
- Johnes Disease (OJD)
- Caseous Lymphadenitis (CLA)
- Borders Disease
- OPA

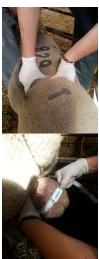
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What can we do to reduce the risk?

Within Ram Compare, we minimise risks -

- Rams isolated on arrival until health status known
- Treatment with quarantine drugs
- General examination
- Diagnostic testing
- Fertility test & semen evaluation



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Maedi Visna (MV) – if not accredited, test for Ab by ELISA

- MV is an insidious RNA retrovirus
 - Respiratory signs
 - Nervous signs (dragging a hind leg)
 - Mastitis & poor milk supply
- Prevalence in UK commercial flocks increasing.
- Once clinical signs are seen, half the flock has probably sero-converted.



Photos Rudolph Reichel

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Ovine Johnes Disease – test pooled faeces by PCR +/- antibody in blood

- OJD is caused by a bacteria, MAP
Mycobacterium avium paratuberculosis
- Causes chronic wasting & early culling.
- OJD in >60% of flocks
- Vaccination with Gudair useful to reduce shedding & clinical cases (NB check if vaccinated if taking blood-sample to check for Ab)



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Border Disease – test blood for Antigen to check not PI

- BDV is a pestivirus similar to BVD in cattle.
- Persistently-infected animals (PI) are a source of infection as they shed virus in all body fluids.
- Pregnant ewes most at risk with the consequence of resorptions, abortions & hairy shaker lambs.



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CLA (caseous lymphadenitis) – check by physical examination & ELISA on blood

- Caused by a bacteria with a lipid coat *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis* - untreatable with antibiotics
- Sheep get abscesses in head & neck lymph nodes
- Spread by close contact, gathering & at shearing
- Very difficult to remove from farm as bacteria lives in soil for months
- Impossible to distinguish vaccinated animals from naturally infected on blood sample



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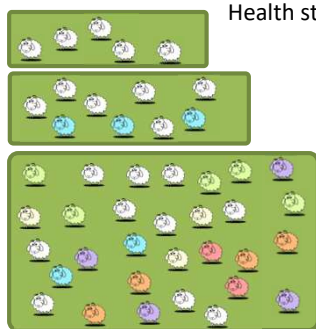
Sheep Scab – blood sample for ELISA test

- ELISA detects antibodies to mite antigen.
- Can detect sheep scab infestation within 2 weeks of contact.
- Potential to detect sheep scab before appearance of clinical signs.
- Potential for false-positives from previous resolved infection.



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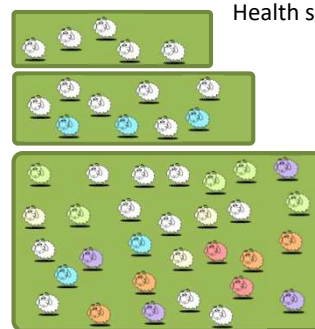


Health status - be measured & evidence-based
- maintain status & reduce risk

- Start by gathering data on your own flock to establish your status.
- Don't panic or knee-jerk.
- If necessary, maintain a hierarchy within your flock.
- Be aware of the wider hierarchy & purchase with care.

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Health status - be measured & evidence-based
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- Your status is equivalent to the worse flock you purchase from.
- Not necessary to test everything on arrival if purchasing from flocks that post mortem all deaths
- OPA
- Maedi Visna (MV)
- Johnes Disease (OJD)
- Caseous Lymphadenitis (CLA)

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Health status - be measured & evidence-based
- maintain status & reduce risk

DATA is essential with transparency to maintain reputation

UK plc
Reputation of whole national flock
- Health status
- Medicine use (- urgent need!)

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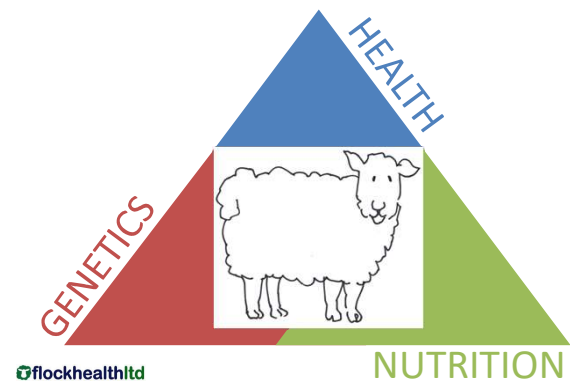
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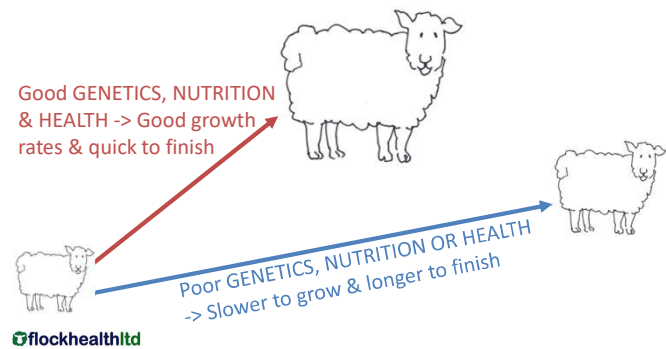
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