



The WeCAHN Small Ruminant Network held a quarterly virtual meeting on September 10th, 2026. The network members discussed animal health events from April to June 2026. Veterinary practitioners, diagnosticians, veterinary college faculty, researchers, public veterinarians, and industry representatives attended the meeting. Sources of information include Clinical Impressions Surveys completed by network practitioners, Data shared by Western veterinary diagnostic laboratories: Manitoba Veterinary Diagnostic Services (VDS) laboratory, Prairie Diagnostic Services (PDS) laboratory, University of Calgary Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Diagnostic Services Unit (UCVM DSU) and, for the first time, the British Columbia Animal Health Centre (AHC), and small ruminant surveillance reported by other sources or networks.

1) Interesting Cases



An Alberta smallholder had stillborn calves and weak or stillborn lambs and kids with enlarged thyroid glands (swelling under the neck). Testing found severe iodine deficiency in the cow, and the animals had consumed very little of their brown salt block (poor source of iodine). Similar cases have been associated with missing supplements, weathered salt blocks, or expired minerals, highlighting the importance of checking supplement condition and consumption. Loose blue salt was given.

Two sheep flocks experienced deaths involving severe mouth sores, with poor body condition and a heavy worm burden also found in one flock. Testing suggested *Fusobacterium* infection in a young lamb, but the bacterium was not confirmed by culture. An underlying illness that weakened the lamb's ability to fight infection was suspected but remained unconfirmed.

A 3-d-old goat kid died with liver damage caused by *Trueperella pyogenes*. The damage showed that infection had begun before birth. This bacterium can cause pregnancy loss and infection in unborn lambs and kids.



2) Syndromic Surveillance

New: BC Animal Health Centre laboratory results were included for the first time; its historical trends will be reviewed at future meetings.

This report compares veterinarians' observations with laboratory findings over five quarters, from Q2 2025 to Q2 2026. Survey participation was limited and varied, and most reported increases came from one returning veterinary practice, so these findings need confirmation before being considered wider regional trends.

Pneumonia reports were **increasing** in Q2, with pneumonia, *Mannheimia haemolytica*, and *Pasteurella multocida* reported very frequently by one practitioner; confirmation is needed. At PDS, *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* declined after exceeding control limits in Q2 2025. Laboratory findings showed no sustained regional increase in a single respiratory pathogen.

Intestinal parasites remained a concern, including strongyle treatment failure. Diarrhea, parasites, and gas bloat were reported very frequently in Q2, while feeding-associated problems were increasing. At PDS, sheep liver inflammation increased despite stable submissions, with parasites, fatty liver disease, and copper poisoning among the causes. Intestinal inflammation also increased, but varied causes did not suggest a shared outbreak. *Clostridium perfringens* disease occurred intermittently, and *Yersinia pseudotuberculosis*, a zoonotic agent, in a goat highlighted the need for personal precautions.

Q2 abortion reports ranged from never to commonly; *Chlamydia* and *Campylobacter* remained stable. Nutritional deficiencies and mastitis were also concerns. Laboratory abortion diagnoses peaked in Q1 and declined in Q2, with placenta inflammation prominent at PDS and UCV. Infectious causes varied, and many abortions remained unexplained. Goat mastitis persisted, most consistently involving *Staphylococcus* spp.

Caseous lymphadenitis (CL) remained the main recurring concern, while one practitioner reported increasing copper and vitamin A deficiencies. At PDS, sheep CL detections remained within control limits and goat detections rose in Q2; BC also reported CL positive blood tests. Bloodstream infections declined, but *Bibersteinia trehalosi* continued affecting several organs.

Arthritis remained a recurring concern. Foot lesions, lameness, and arthritis were reported very frequently in Q2, but the increasing foot disease signal requires confirmation.

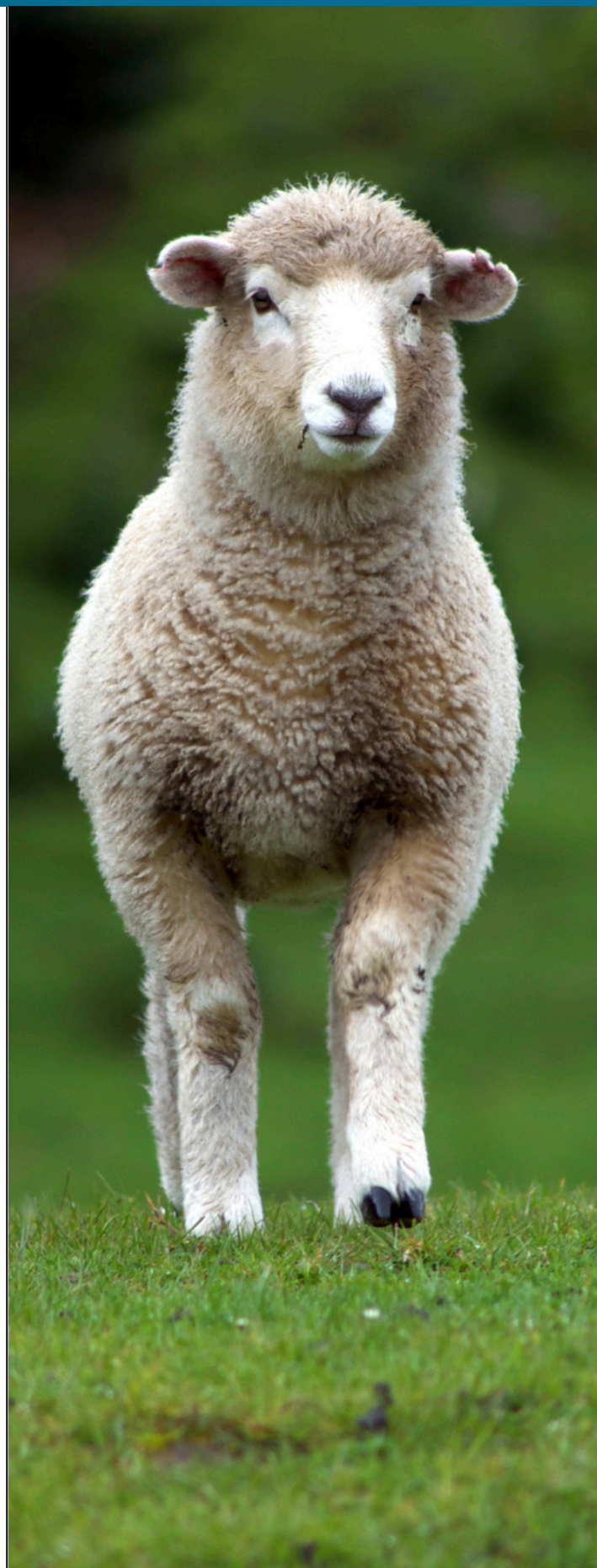
One veterinarian reported polioencephalomalacia very frequently in Q2, warranting investigation of feeding, mineral, vitamin, salt, and water-related risks. UCV confirmed *Listeria monocytogenes* in a pet goat; no other laboratory listeriosis cases were reported.

3) Network Updates

CL vaccination: Vaccine use varied in BC with highly engaged farms vaccinating more. Saskatchewan producers were reportedly switching CL vaccines over *Clostridium perfringens* type A concerns. Participants raised concerns about severe tiredness after CL vaccination in previously unvaccinated goat herds containing CL-infected animals.

Mannheimia vaccination: One veterinarian reported no improvement after *Mannheimia* vaccination, while better barn ventilation substantially improved health. Sheep and goats respond differently from cattle to *Mannheimia* vaccination.

Pregnancy scanning: Saskatchewan producers expressed interest in having trained non-veterinarians count unborn lambs and kids with ultrasound to guide feeding and management. Cost, travel, late requests, and poor handling facilities were barriers to veterinarians. SK would require legislative change; Ontario permits this approach, and the Canadian Sheep Federation offers training.



5) Weather-emergency Resources

Preparedness information is available for [BC wildfires](#), [Alberta floods](#), [Saskatchewan livestock emergencies](#), [Manitoba emergencies](#) and [drought support](#). [OAHN](#) provides additional resources.



6) Emerging and Important Diseases

Scrapie: An apparently healthy Oregon sheep tested positive in June 2026 ([WOAH](#)). Canada's last reported scrapie cases were in Alberta in 2019 ([CFIA](#)).

New World screwworm: Cases continued in Mexico, with only Baja California and Baja California del Sur reported free ([SENASICA](#)). Livestock and pet cases were confirmed in Texas and New Mexico ([USDA](#)).

Shamonda-like virus: The virus spread across several European countries, causing illness and substantial dairy milk losses ([FLI](#)). Pregnancy losses and birth defects remain concerns but are unconfirmed; authorities are monitoring outcomes ([Swiss IVI](#)).

Bird flu: HPAI continued in US dairy cattle and returned to Manitoba and Alberta poultry in September ([CFIA](#)). Canadian cattle remained free of detections, with raw milk testing negative through July 30 ([CFIA milk surveillance](#)).

6) Producer takeaways

- Reports of pneumonia, digestive problems, lameness, and brain disease increased in Q2, but limited participation makes regional trends uncertain. Laboratory testing found no sustained increase in respiratory diseases.
- Intestinal parasites and treatment failure remained a concern. Sheep liver disease increased, with parasite, feeding, and toxicity-related causes.
- Caseous lymphadenitis (CL) persisted in sheep and goats. *Bibersteinia trehalosi* continued causing infections affecting several organs.
- New World Screwworm spread in Mexico and has been detected in Texas and New Mexico. Shamonda-like virus emerged in European dairy cattle causing fever, diarrhea and drop in milk production; effects on pregnancy remain unconfirmed. Bird flu affected Western Canadian poultry, while Canadian cattle testing remained negative.

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