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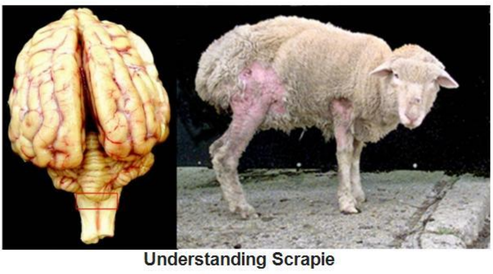
Dedicated to cattle, swine, sheep and goat enthusiasts.



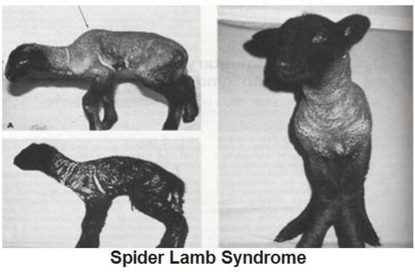
Understanding Scrapie

Scrapies is a fatal, degenerative disease affecting the central nervous system of sheep and goats. It is a disease classified as transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSE). Scrapies got its name based on the fact that individual sheep often rub on objects and scrape off their wool and hair.

Scrapies is caused by a virus that affects the protein called a prion. Researcher have discovered that the scrapies virus is resistant to heat and to normal sterilization processes. The scrapies virus eventually attacks the brain, leaving holes in the brain, and giving it a presents of a sponge. Thus, the name spongiform encephalopathy was created.

What are some clinical signs of Scrapies:

- weight loss despite retention appetite
- behavioral changes
- itching and rubbing
- wool pulling
- biting of the legs and sides
- lip smacking
- loss of coordination
- increased sensitivity to noise and movement
- high-stepping gait of forelimbs
- bunny-hop movement of rear legs
- swaying of back end
- tremors
- down, unable to stand
- death



Spider Lamb Syndrome

By: Leah Scholz

Background:
Spider Lamb Syndrome is also known as Hereditary Chondrodysplasia. It is a genetically acquired disorder that results in deformities of the skeleton in young lambs. This disorder is a recessive genetic disorder. This means that lambs that have this disorder receive one recessive gene from both parents. This disorder is found predominantly in black face lambs. General figures show that 75% of the lambs that have it are of the Suffolk breed, and 25% are of the Hampshire breed.

History of the Disorder:
Spider Lamb Syndrome is thought to have originated by a genetic mutation in the Suffolk breed in the late 1960's. However, this disorder did not start to become a widespread problem until the early and middle 1980's. Spider Lamb Syndrome involves the improper formation of bone. In a normal lamb, cartilage forms and minerals are put down at the end of the cartilage to form calcified bone. This process is altered in a spider lamb sheep. Some cartilage is ossified into bone while other cartilage in the same area is not. The deformities that result includes long and bent legs, curved and twisted spines, flattened rib cages, and abnormally long necks. The most commonly observed deformity is splayed legs. This involves the portion of the legs below the knee jutting outward at a 30 to 45 degree angle. The legs resemble spider legs, and that is how the disorder acquired its name. Lambs with the disorder may not show visible signs at birth, but deformities can be seen 4 to 6 weeks after birth. These deformities make it hard for the lambs to nurse. Therefore, many of these lambs do not survive.

Know The Facts

1) 75% of the carcass value is from the hind saddle?
2) Describe the ideal top line on a market lamb?
3) Why is structural soundness important in market lambs?
4) What is the ideal market lamb weight?
5) Why should a market lamb have at least .10" of fat cover?
6) List three indicators for growth in a market lamb?
7) A market lamb should widest from stifle to forearm or stifle to stifle?
8) What is the least valuable cut of meat on a market lamb?
9) What is cow-hocked?
10) How do you add volume?

Answers:
1) True, the most valuable cuts on a lamb are the leg and loin. Having the most carcass value and weight.
2) The ideal top line is strong, level and carries the greatest amount of muscle down the rack and into a long and deep loin.
3) Structural correctness is important as the bone structure is linked to the muscle pattern of the lamb. Correctness affects growth and the daily function of market animals.
4) 130 pounds
5) The ideal cover on a market lamb is .10" to .25". Anything less than a .10" will affect the carcass quality affecting the shelf life and dehydration to the carcass.
6) length of neck, length of face, length of cannon and length of body.
7) stifle to stifle
8) The shoulder
9) The hocks turn inward instead of being straight
10) Volume is defined as depth, width, and length. Some times you can add volume by nutrition or genetic selection.

Featured May 2013 Market Lamb Class

Official Reasons and Placings by Bill Disberger
Official Placing: 1-2-4-3
Cuts: 5-2-3

For more information on the May 2013 Market Lamb class of the month, visit our home page. Each month The Judging Connection.com features a class of the month and a judge from our directory. The public is allowed to vote on the class of the month. The official results of the class is determined from the featured judge of the month.

Featured Livestock Judging Team

Ohio State University

Featured May Judge

Bill Disberger
Wamego, Kansas

Bill judges Cattle, Sheep, Club lambs, Swine and Meat goats.

Bill grew up on a diversified livestock operation in the Flint Hills of Kansas that was composed of a club lamb & breeding sheep operation and a cow/calf operation. Bill was a member of the National Champion Livestock Judging Team while attending Kansas State University and also received several individual awards. After finishing his degree at KSU, Bill was the judging coach at Hutchinson Community College for 12 years.

Introducing Our New Judges For The Month of May

(from left to right)
Brandon Creamer: Montrose, CO
Stephanie Haines: Grinnell, IA
Clay Hamil: La Cross, KS
Stefen Tucker: College Station, TX
Kaycee Vollmar: Mills, WY

Special Thanks To Our New Newsletter Subscribers

7 New Subscribers for the Month of May

Featured Livestock Judging Individual

Emily Limes
(Ohio State University)