

Lactation Disorders

Disorder	What do you See?	Cause	Treatment	Prevention
Mastitis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mastitis can develop rapidly • may be an obvious cause (damage to udder, bruising, wire cuts, sore mouth scabs) • various levels of severity (some cases are sub-clinical, but will still cause injury to the udder and decrease milk production) • in the obvious cases, the udder becomes hot and painful (may cause fever) • ewe carries one leg away from udder • lamb may look hollow if milk decreased • mastitis is a common sign of the Maedi-Visna virus, both sides of the udder are hard but not hot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bacteria such as <i>Staphylococcus</i> spp. or <i>Pasteurella</i> spp causes infection of the udder • maybe related to injury or unsanitary conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • depends of severity of infection • frequent stripping of milk out of udder (at least twice per day) • intravenous or intramuscular antibiotics injections may be useful 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • unless lumps and abscesses are very small, the affected and recovered ewe should be culled from breeding flock. • keep ewe housing areas clean and well bedded • if you suspect Maedi-Visna, see Respiratory Disorders for details
BlueBag Masitis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • very severe form of mastitis • udder is very swollen, hard, and has a greenish colouration • infection generally spreads through the body (systemic poisoning) • the ewe becomes feverish, quite ill and may die in a day or two • if ewe recovers, the affected half of the entire udder no longer produces milk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • as above, likely to have an udder injury 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • call your vet • hot packs applied to udder using hot water and liniments • intravenous or intramuscular antibiotic injections may be useful • early treatment is essential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • as above
Agalactia (Lack of Milk)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ewe produce little or no milk. • may be little udder development as the ewe nears lambing • no fever, illness, pain, or edema of udder • there may be a hard fibrotic lump within the parenchyma of the udder with an extension from this fibrous mass descending down into the teat canal, causing an interruption of milk flow • milk (if there is any) appears normal in colour and consistency, simply not enough of it • occurs among first time lambing ewe lambs as well as older ewes. • maternal behaviour may be normal, or ewes may be less willing to allow lambs to nurse (especially with young ewes) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cause not known • possible influencing factors: • chilling of udders • excessive barley feeding • mastitis infection not cured • mycoplasma infection • early lambing (Dec-Jan). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none (some ewes are slow to start milking after lambing, and milk production may pick up after a few days) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cull affected ewes.