

Unit 14

Pneumonia in Cattle and Sheep

Factsheet

Pneumonia can range from mild to severe, and can even be deadly.

There is no one condition in cattle and sheep called pneumonia.

The condition usually results from a combination of pre-disposing factors on a farm e.g. physical conditions, physiological stress and pathogens.

Pneumonia can be classed as either acute or chronic.

An **acute** disease is a disease with either or both of these:

1. a rapid onset
2. a short course (as opposed to a chronic course).

A **chronic** disease is a disease that is long-lasting or recurrent

Types of Pneumonia

Six main types:

- iii) Viral
- iv) Mycoplasmal
- v) Bacterial
- vi) Parasitic
- vii) Mycotic-fungal
- viii) Non-infective – mechanically caused e.g. dosing/stomach tubing

Pneumonia in Cattle

Young cattle are more at risk from pneumonia

Causes of Pneumonia in Calves

1. Viral

- RSV- respiratory syncytial virus
- PI3 - parainfluenza virus
- IBR - infectious bovine tracheitis
- BVD - bovine viral diarrhoea
- Coronavirus.

2. Bacterial

- Pasteurella multocida and Mannheimia haemolytica (formerly Pasteurella haemolytica)
- Actinomyces pyogenes.

3 Parasitic

- Parasitic bronchitis caused by lungworm or husk.

4. Mycoplasma

Pneumonia in Sheep

Pneumonia in lambs can be caused by

- bacteria
- mycoplasma
- virus
- internal parasite.

1. Bacterial Causes

Pasteurellosis is caused by two bacteria

- Mannheimia haemolytica (formerly Pasteurella haemolytica)
- Pasteurella trehalosi.

2. Viral Causes

Five viruses can cause pneumonia in sheep

- PI3 - parainfluenza virus
- RSV- respiratory syncytial virus
- Adenoviruses
- MV -maedi visna
- OPA - Ovine Pulmonary Adenocarcinoma (known as Jaagsietke).

3. Parasitic

Lungworms cause parasitic bronchitis and occasionally pneumonia in young sheep during summer and autumn. It is caused by the roundworm - *Dictyocaulus filarial*.

Pre-disposing Factors

These are farm factors that lead a young animal to develop pathogenic pneumonia. These on their own, do not 'cause' pneumonia:

- Poor ventilation in calf housing
- Cold, humid conditions
- Sudden changes in air temperature
- Stress due to different causes
- Inadequate intake of colostrum
- Poor quality colostrum
- Calves of different origin mixed together at a young age
- Calves that have suffered from diarrhoea are also more likely to suffer from respiratory disease.

General Symptoms of Pneumonia

- Watery discharge from nose
- Loss of appetite
- No interest in the other calves
- Dry cough
- Faster respiration rate
- Raised temperature above 39 degrees Celsius.

Specific conditions have specific symptoms e.g. IBR, Husk, Pasteurella