**Session 3 Learning Activity: Health and Diseases (30 min)**

This exercise is designed to reinforce the information presented during the Session and help the participants apply their new knowledge. It is designed to be used as an individual tool that will be discussed and thus used as a class learning tool. It will include providing the participant learning activity handout and allowing 10 minutes to complete the activity. Then provide the answers to the class.

Facilitator note: Assure participants that they will not be assigned a grade or score and that the purpose of the exercise is to stimulate discussion.

1. Name at least two diseases (or types) we discussed that you will be sure to ask breeders if they have had problems with on their farm before buying animals from them. Why did you choose these two? Discuss the answers with the group.

Abortive type diseases - there are several of these (Chlamydia/enzootic abortion; Campylobacter/vibriosis; Listerosis; there are others we did not discuss like Q-fever, Leptospirosis and Salmonella, etc.) and you can easily ask if they have ever had problems with abortions/ miscarriages/premature births; some of these are contagious, some can pass to humans (and other animals) and all can cause serious economic losses. Some are situational (toxoplasmosis – if they have cats), but it’s good to know. You can ask if they treat with antibiotics prior to lambing/kidding or if they vaccinate for any abortive diseases.

Foot rot/scald – beware of animals with chronic lameness, especially if it’s in the hooves (rot) and not just between the toes (scald); this is a major economic problem, especially in larger flocks/herds; it is a pain to treat (increased hoof trimming, foot baths, quarantine of really bad cases, etc.) and difficult to get rid of (or has been in the past; Zactran, an antibiotic approved in the U.S. only for cattle for BVD right now is proving to be nearly miraculous in getting rid of it).

CL/CLA (Caseous lymphadenitis)– This is fairly common, especially in meat goats (seems to be worse in Boer goats) and is also does not seem to be a major health issue currently, but quarantine and treatment time and money are an issue, you cannot market animals with abscesses, and, if left unchecked, could result in larger losses with mammary gland abscesses causing mastitis issues and weight loss and death losses with internal abscesses.

Soremouth – although this is very common in sheep and goats and is not a huge health issue overall, production losses such as reduced weight gain in lambs/kids, reduced milk production that may be permanent if mastitis occurs, and possible animal losses will be noted; it is very time consuming to quarantine and treat animals that have an outbreak.

OPP/CAE (Ovine Progressive Pneuomia & Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis Virus) You can ask if they have any unexplained weight loss in spite of good appetites in older animals (this is also a question for Johnes), if they’ve had hard bag/chronic mastitis or swollen joints, especially front knees. You can ask if they test for these and if they are a major concern for your operation (CAE especially in dairy goats), ask them to test animals before you buy.

Mastitis – there are a couple of contagious organisms (*Staph aureous* and *Strep agalactia*) and if the farm has a chronic problem, you may want to avoid purchases from those farms; however, most mastitis is more environmental (more common, less virulent organisms involved)

Pinkeye – this is mostly an annoyance in that it is highly contagious and it is laborious to treat, but there are also possible losses in production, especially if left untreated and animals go blind

1. True or **False** (circle one). If the animal and herd it came from looks healthy, it is not necessary to quarantine for a period of time prior to introduction into your herd.

Answer: False – Animals could be sick or carriers of a disease and not be showing any symptoms. Quarantine (without fence line contact) is important. Animals in the quarantined area should be cared for ‘last’ in the schedule and you should never wear clothes/shoes exposed to quarantine areas or animals around your herd.

1. **True** or False (circle one). It is important to wear gloves when handling newborn lambs and kids or placenta, even if they are apparently healthy. Discuss your answer.

Answer – True; even if abortions are not apparent, animals could still be carriers; because so many abortive diseases are zoonotic (including transmission to people), it is very important to protect yourself and your family; men taking care of lambing and kidding should be careful not to expose pregnant spouses/partners to contaminated materials (clothing).