Johne’s Disease

Endemic in the UK and responsible for significant financial losses to the livestock sector

Disease prevention and control tips

• Agree an animal health plan and control strategy with your vet
• Maintain a closed herd/flock or minimise purchase of replacement stock
• Cull clinical cases and their offspring
• Avoid feeding pooled colostrum or waste milk
• Reduce environmental contamination by good hygiene in sheds and water troughs
• Do not co-graze sheep and cattle
• Vaccination can control clinical disease in sheep and goats

Disease

• Caused by *Mycobacterium avium* subspecies *paratuberculosis* (Map)
• Clinical signs include progressive weight loss and diarrhoea
• Spread by ingestion of Map in faeces, colostrum, milk or across the placenta to unborn animals
• Has a long incubation period (2-4 years)

Diagnosis

• No single diagnostic test can detect all stages of the disease
• Diagnosis is by antibody tests for blood or milk, or faecal culture

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