4-1-1986

Animal Health Technician Conference
Continuing Education Brief
1986 Penn Annual Conference

Neither sleet, nor snow, nor freezing temperatures prevented 600 veterinarians from attending the School's 1986 Penn Annual Conference. Alumni support for the Conference has been increasing every year, and the 1986 attendance equalled our record Centennial Year Penn Annual Conference.

The Conference Directors, Dr. Tom Divers and Dr. Charles Newton, are working toward increasing the number of speakers brought in from other institutions. Please drop a note to either Dr. Divers (Large Animal Topics) or Dr. Newton (Small Animal Topics and Basic Science Topics) with speakers and/or topics you would like to hear.

The 1987 PENN ANNUAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, AND THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, AT THE ADAM'S MARK HOTEL IN PHILADELPHIA.

1986 Spring Continuing Education Seminars at Penn
WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 1986
Small Animal Dermatology
Topics: Canine and Feline Pyoderma; Diagnosis and Therapy of Seborrhea; Exfoliative Dermatoses; Allergic Diseases
Dr. William Miller, Jr. Assistant Professor of Dermatology
Dr. Robert M. Schwartzman Professor of Dermatology
WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 1986
Nutritional Interactions with Productivity and Health of Dairy Cows
This program will address nutritional interactions with milk production, reproductive efficiency, and their economic impacts.
Interrelationships of Parasites and Nutrition with Health and Productivity
Dr. Colin Johnston
Technological Advances in Nutrition and Productivity
Dr. William Chalupa
Protein Nutrition and Reproductive Performance
Dr. James Ferguson
Metabolic States that Affect Production and Health
Dr. David Kronfeld
Malnutrition and Medical Disorders
Dr. Tom Divers
Forage Analysis Facts and Foibles
Dr. Charles Ramberg
Nutritional Counseling in Practice
Dr. David Galligan
WEDNESDAY, June 4, 1986
Small Animal Radiology
This small animal radiology program, with approximately three hours devoted to lectures in the morning and three hours devoted can play a role; if goats are fed too much alfalfa, they may develop arthritis.
Goats and sheep suffer from caseous lymphadenitis infections, a disease affecting about 8 percent of the herds. It is caused by Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis (Covis). Animals with the disease are not permitted to leave the state; the illness is highly contagious. The infection causes abscesses. In sheep these occur most commonly at shearing laceration sites. Goats appear to contract the infection through ingestion; they often develop internal abscesses. These may involve internal lymph nodes in the thoracic (chest) and abdominal cavities and may involve organs such as the liver, lung or spleen. Chronic weight loss is often the most common complaint associated with internal abscesses. External abscesses can be excised or lanced and drained. Affected animals should be isolated from the rest of the herd/flock until all drainage has stopped. Internal abscesses are very difficult to diagnose and treat. Antibiotic therapy and surgical removal have been tried but often treatment is not successful and the affected animal is culled. In ewes and goats these

Common Health Problems in Goats and Sheep

continued from page 3

sucking intestinal worm. The animals become anemic and develop diarrhea. If they are not treated promptly, they can die. To prevent heavy worm infestation, manure samples should be checked frequently and the whole herd should be wormed at regular intervals. Also, when turning sheep out to pasture, every effort should be made to use a meadow which has been dormant from October to March and thus has a reduced parasite burden. Weaned lambs should go to clean pastures and not those used by ewes. Dairy goats which are kept inside are not so prone to parasites.

However, they have other problems. Sheep and goats are quite susceptible to respiratory ailments. Slowly progressive pneumonia occurs more in sheep. Ovine progressive pneumonia (OPP) is the most common viral pneumonia. “There is no cure,” said Dr. Vaala. “One can only treat it supportively.” Goats and sheep also develop bacterial pneumonia; this can be treated with drugs. “They have to be kept in a clean, dry, well ventilated environment to prevent respiratory diseases,” she said. “There is a small animal radiology program, with approximately three hours devoted to lectures in the morning and three hours devoted

1986 Reunion Year Class Agents

“...
toward smaller group workshops in the afternoon, highly practitioner-oriented.

The lectures will emphasize principles of radiographic interpretation of the chest and abdomen. The workshop will be handled as a laboratory with teams of two or three people assigned to a viewbox with the Radiology faculty circulating to assist in radiographic interpretation of the presented cases. The lecture will concentrate on recognition of normal and abnormal radiographic findings of the chest and abdomen with specific emphasis on differential diagnosis.

Dr. Darryl Biery, Professor of Radiology
Dr. Sydney Evans, Instructor in Radiology
Dr. W. Harker Rhodes, Professor of Radiology
Dr. Mark Saunders, Resident in Radiology

abcesses can spread into the mammary tissues, resulting in poor milk production. Foot problems are common in sheep and goats if the animals are not properly taken care of. "The feet should be trimmed and shaped periodically," said Dr. Vaala. "Otherwise sites exist for bacteria to flourish." This causes foot rot, a highly contagious disease. Animals can be protected against it by frequent vaccination, proper foot care and a clean, dry environment.

Skin problems, too, can be a big headache for the sheep and goat farmer. Both species are good hosts for various parasites, and goats in particular are prone to lice in the winter and spring. "Mastitis is common in goats and sheep," said Ms. Tuschak. "They love ornamentals and are not able to distinguish between harmless and poisonous plants. Also, fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides should be stored where the animals cannot reach them.

Anemia can be passed to the suckling young, said Ms. Tuschak. "They love ornamentals and are not able to distinguish between harmless and poisonous plants. Also, fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides should be stored where the animals cannot reach them.

Role of the AHT. - "The Application of Accupuncture, Infrared Laser, and Electromagnetic Field Therapies in Equine Medical Practice" and "Diagnostic Ultrasound: Principles and Application." Participating conference faculty members are Dr. Ruth Dougherty, RVT, of Walnridge Equine Continuing Education Units; Dr. Colin Harvey, professor of surgery, University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine; Dr. Joseph Haines of the Fairhill Equine Veterinary Clinic; and Dr. Mark Saunders, resident in radiology, University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. The fee for the conference is $20 and four Continuing Education Units will be awarded. For further information, call (215) 325-3545.

Animal Health Technician Conference
Harcum Junior College will sponsor an Animal Health Technician Conference on June 7 at the college in Bryn Mawr.

Topics include "Rapid Techniques in Microbial Identification," "Veterinary Dentistry: The

owners should check their animals for evidence of mastitis by examining the milk in the strip cup prior to milking out the udder. Also, once a month, a California Mastitis Test should be performed. Mastitis seriously affects milk production and it is responsible for economic losses. Prevention includes clean milking equipment, washing of udder and teats and the milker's hands prior to milking, and dipping the teats after milking. It is very important that the animals are milked regularly and that the udder is emptied each time. If mastitis is suspected, a culture should be done to determine the causative organism and the proper antibiotic. If drugs are used to combat the infection, the bovine withdrawal time for the particular drug should be used as a guide, though it was found that drugs can be in evidence in goat's milk after the minimum withdrawal time indicated for bovines. This is particularly important if penicillin is used, since a residue of this drug in milk can be fatal to people with an allergy to the drug.

Sheep and goat owners must protect their animals from accidental poisoning and confine them to a safe pasture. Goats in particular are very curious and, according to Dr. Vaala, are nibblers. "They will eat anything in sight," she said. "They love ornamentals and are not able to distinguish between harmless and poisonous plants. Also, fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides should be stored where they cannot reach them.

Goats should not be staked in an open area as they can be attacked by roaming dogs. If they must be staked, it should be in a protected enclosure.

Goats generally make better "pets" than sheep. "They follow one around like a puppy," she said. "They can be taught to walk on a leash and they are fun to watch. The African Pygmy goat is quite popular as a pet.

According to Dr. Vaala, veterinarians are becoming more interested in these species. "But much more research is needed before we fully understand the requirements of these animals and their diseases."

—H.W.