

## Metabolic diseases

### **Pregnancy Toxemia in Ewes/ Pregnancy ketosis**

Pregnancy toxemia affects ewes during late gestation and is characterized by partial anorexia and depression, often with neurologic signs, progressing to recumbency and death. Most cases develop 1–3 week before parturition.

The primary predisposing cause of pregnancy toxemia is inadequate nutrition during late gestation, usually because of insufficient energy density of the ration and decreased rumen capacity as a result of fetal growth.

CLINICAL SIGNS: Animals spend more time lying and more frequent bouts of lying than their healthy herdmates. As the disease advances, signs of listlessness, aimless walking, muscle twitching or fine muscle tremors, opisthotonos, and grinding of the teeth. This progresses to blindness, ataxia, and finally sternal recumbency, coma, and death.

PREVENTION-MANAGEMENT: Body score condition should be managed in late lactation, provide suitable-balanced rations 4-6 weeks before gestation, adequate feeder space for pregnant animals.