



# Word from the Herd

Louisa Veterinary Service

Winter 2020

## Case Report

**History:** Dr. McCall was called to a farm in Central VA on 2 different occasions to examine 2 different female yaks (both on the same farm) due to acute severe similar illnesses. The question was...what kind of illness was attacking the yaks???

**Clinical signs:** The yaks were females and each had both eyes severely swollen and hemorrhagic (bloody). At first glance it looked like very advanced necrotic cancer in both eyes with streams of blood flowing from each swollen eye. Both yaks were clearly in a lot of discomfort and pain.

**Diagnosis:** Euthanasia was elected due to the poor prognosis of both yaks. The owners transported the yaks to the Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine for necropsies. After many weeks of advanced viral testing the cause of their deaths was said to be Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD).

**What is EHD?** This disease is a viral disease of white-tailed deer that can occasionally affect other livestock, like cattle and sheep. EHD is sometimes confused with Bluetongue, but it is a different disease. EHD is transmitted by midges, small biting flies. EHD is a reportable disease in Virginia.

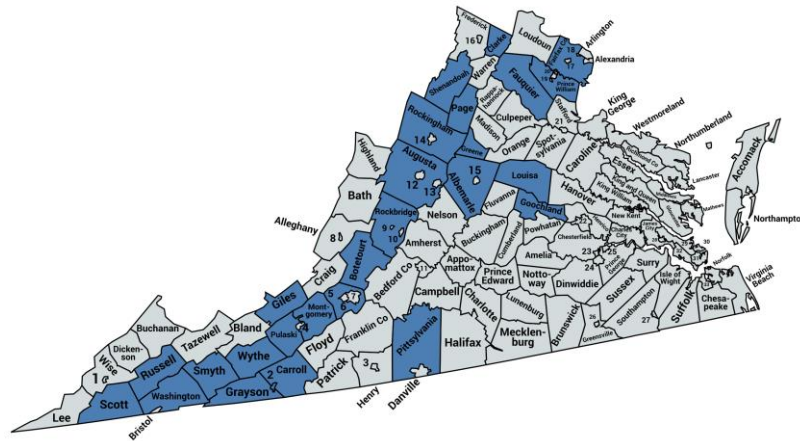
**Prevention:** EHD is a difficult disease to prevent. Keeping cattle away from standing water is always a good practice. Using insecticides to prevent external parasites is also helpful, i.e. rubs, fly tags, pour-on products.

### Take Away Points from this case:

1. The clients in this case were very willing to transport the animals to a university, which was key to getting a diagnosis.
2. Strange diseases can pop up anywhere and there's not always a way to prevent these unusual diseases.
3. If you have species that are not native to an area, they are prone to more different types of health problems for many reasons including: climate, parasites, predators, and exposure to different types of wild animals.

# Theileria Update

- Theileria is “the new tick disease” we discussed in our last newsletter caused by the Asian Longhorn Tick.
- Theileria has been positively identified in 16 counties in Virginia now (a map is included); Louisa, Orange, Madison, and Greene are all recent additions this year.



- The preferred testing method is still blood in a purple top blood tube to Dr. Kevin Lahmer's lab at the Virginia-Maryland Veterinary School and the cost is around \$50 plus overnight shipping.
- Many cows that aborted calves last year tested positive for Theileria, even though they do not appear sick themselves. There are MANY other more common causes of abortion, but it has been interesting to see how many cows and heifers have turned up positive on screening.
- Several cattle on screening for Theileria have been positive for both Anaplasmosis and Theileria. This is a double whammy and may suggest that cattle carrying Anaplasmosis may have weaker immune systems and be more susceptible to other diseases, such as Theileria.
- We encourage you all to be thinking of strategies to help prevent tick borne illness in your cattle through the summer/fall of 2020. Remember that prescriptions are required for CTC in the mineral/feed. There are often producer rebate programs available for fly tags and pour-on insecticides. Check now with your drug reps on what is available for spring.

Please welcome Cecilia Hoffman to our "herd".... but you can call her Ce!

Ce has a business background as an accountant but started with her veterinary experience while in high school. She returned to veterinary medicine when she retired and achieved her Veterinary Technician license in 2015.

Her background is in small animal. She enjoys showing and breeding Irish Wolfhounds and Silken Windhounds.



Ce says, "This is a big change, a great challenge and a wonderful learning experience to join Louisa Veterinary Service as the manager. I look forward to talking to and meeting all the wonderful clients here!"

Debbie has been with us for over 4 years and finds it is time to pass the torch as the manager/receptionist/dispatcher/vet assistant, et al., she has evolved into. She is retiring, of sorts! She hopes to graduate soon with an Associate Degree in Veterinary Technology and pass her Veterinary Nurse licensing exam this year. She has 4 fantastic grandchildren to help keep her busy as well as her desire to work within her local community to provide affordable vet care. And spend more time with her adopted mini-donkeys, Honey and Annie!

"I have loved every minute of my time with LVS and the clients have all been wonderful as I grew in my knowledge of production animal care. I leave you in good hands with Ce, and know that I'll be back to visit Lucy and help out where I can at the office. Thanks for everything – I'll miss y'all!"



# CLIENT SPOTLIGHT – Jacob Capozella

## **Tell us a little bit about yourself, what would you like others to know?**

“I am 15 years old member of the Louisa 4H Livestock club. I have been showing Sheep over the last 6 years at our local Louisa 4H show, Virginia State Fair and Jackpot shows around Virginia. I have always wanted to own my own flock of sheep and to learn more on the producer side of the show world. I started last year with purchasing 6 bred ewes due this year.”

## **Jacob, what are your goals for your flock?**

“My Overall goal for my flock is for one day to be a well-known and competitive breeder of show lambs for 4H/FFA and jackpot shows.”

## **What have you done to prepare for lambing?**

“I have prepared for lambing season by paying close attention to all of my ewes through their pregnancy and providing them daily feed and hay and a dry stall. I feed twice a day because my fellow breeder who sold me the ewes said to feed twice a day and then I’ll have my eyes on them more. Dr. McCall came out about 4 weeks before the first lamb is due and we dewormed the ewes, checked their body condition and trimmed hooves.”

## **What do you expect from lambing season?**

“I expect lambing season to go well I hope because I feel I have done the most I can do to keep the sheep happy and healthy. I have a great partner (my mom) and if something goes wrong I know Dr. McCall is a phone call away. I have 6 ewes to start lambing end of January and some due early March.”

## **How do you track your goals?**

“So far I have a financial record I am keeping on cost, marking dates when we have done something and the due date of the ewes. I keep my vet records and I will keep good records of the lambs birth and future dates.”

**Best wishes to you, and we look forward to watching you grow in your business!**



Louisa Vet, would like to continue to help educate our clients, which enables you to manage your farm to the best of your ability.

What do inquiring minds wish they had more knowledge on that your Veterinarian may help with?

Are you having problems managing an issue with your herd?

Is there a topic you wish you had more working knowledge on that would help you manage your farm?

Send us an email at [louisavet@gmail.com](mailto:louisavet@gmail.com) and let's see where 2020 takes us!

## **Upcoming Events**

Orange-Madison Cooperative invites you to a 4H and Livestock Project Kickoff Event on Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup> from 1 to 3:30 PM. There will be nutrition, training, animal health and show ring preparation presentations. RSVP to Kevin Powell at [kevin.powell@sscoop.com](mailto:kevin.powell@sscoop.com).

[3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Virginia Women in Agriculture Gathering](#) on Thursday, February 20<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup> at the Goochland Agricultural Center at Central High School with workshops and a conference on Friday. Ladies, you should check it out!!

**What would happen if pigs could fly?**



**The price of bacon would skyrocket!**

On February 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>, at the Best Western in Zion Crossroads, there is a [Young Farmers Winter Expo](#) put on by Virginia Farm Bureau. You can buy tickets online at [reg.plantereg.com](http://reg.plantereg.com)

# Ready, Set, Go!

Lambing and kidding season will soon be upon us! This is the time of year to watch your pregnant does, as they approach the end of their 5 month gestation, for decreased appetite and severe lethargy. She may be displaying a common metabolic disorder prior to labor called *pregnancy toxemia*. The babies are taking so much of her nutrients and energy that her body is not getting enough nutrients.

Everyone, including us, hopes for no birthing problems (dystocia), but you need to be prepared if your doe or ewe has difficulties during labor. A few signs that signal impending labor is:

- the udder filling with milk (bagging up)
- the pelvic muscles/ligaments relaxing -giving a hollowed look
- separating herself from the herd.

Once labor has started, she will often get up and down often and urinate more frequently as well.

Dystocias can occur with any doe/ewe but they occur most often with first time mothers. Difficult pregnancy is defined by straining or pushing with no progression, within the first 30 minutes to 1 hour of active labor. You should intervene at the first sign of no progression in labor. For example, if you see little feet coming out of the vulva for longer than 20 minutes without seeing more of the legs starting to appear, there may be a problem.

1. Start the investigation by thoroughly washing your hands, putting on latex gloves and lubricating your gloves with K-Y jelly. Depending on the breed and the size of your hands you may not be able to get your hands in very far but do the best you can within reason. Start by trying to feel how dilated her cervix is. Sometimes the babies are so malpositioned in the uterus that they don't stimulate the cervix to open properly - usually a C-section is required in these cases.
2. If you can feel kids/lambs, gently try to manipulate the legs to facilitate natural birth. The babies should come through the birth canal in a "diving" position with the front legs coming out first and their head in between their front legs. K-Y jelly and Dawn dish soap are great lubricators to reduce friction in the birth canal and allow easier manipulation of the babies.

Once the kids/lambs are born, you want to make sure they're up and nursing within the 30 minutes. It's important that they ingest colostrum (the milk produced the first day after birth, it's thicker and more yellow in color compared to milk) which contains important antibodies for the health of the lambs/kids. If the lambs/kids are not nursing well, bottle feeding or tube feeding is essential. Only bottle feed a lamb or kid that has a good suckle reflex. A cold sickly lamb or kid may require tube feeding.

You should have a heat lamp, colostrum/milk replacer, a Pritchard teat and bottle ready in case one of the babies is not eating well or the doe/ewe is not allowing them to nurse like she should.

Louisa Veterinary Service is here to help should you run into any difficulties. We'd love to see pictures of your little bundles!!

*Dr. Sarah Baldwin*

