Contagious footrot is a bacterial infection common in sheep and goats that is caused by bacteria that live in the soil. The most commonly associated bacteria with ovine/caprine footrot are *Fusobacterium necrophorum* and *Dichelobacter nodosus*.

With the support of the Alberta Goat Association, we conducted a national survey to assess the importance of footrot disease in the sheep and goat livestock industries. We also assessed producer, producer organizations, and veterinarian willingness to support research for a Canadian-based footrot bacterin vaccine that would incorporate recent Canadian *F. necrophorum* and *D. nodosus* isolates.

**SURVEY: 21 PRODUCERS RESPONDED**

**What province in Canada do your goats reside?**

- **British Columbia**: [Percentage]
- **Alberta**: [Percentage]
- **Saskatchewan**: [Percentage]

**Which type(s) of goats do you raise?**

- **Dairy and meat**: [Percentage]
- **Dairy (for milk production)**: [Percentage]
- **Meat**: [Percentage]
TOP 3 DISEASES OF CONCERN TO GOAT PRODUCERS:

Other = Caseous Lymphadenitis, Johnes Disease, nutritional deficiencies, prolapses, pregnancy toxemia
TOP 3 DISEASES WHERE ANTIMICROBIALS MOST COMMONLY USED IN GOAT HERDS:

MOST COMMON CAUSE OF LAMENESS AS DIAGNOSED BY GOAT PRODUCERS:

Other – failing to trim claws in a timely manner, no foot lesions in herd
MOST IMPORTANT RISK FACTORS FOR FOOTROT:

What season do you most commonly observe footrot issues in your goats?

When after weaning, is footrot most observed in your feeder kids?
Do you observe footrot more commonly in older does/buck (≥ 3 years) than in younger does/bucks?

- Older (>3 years): 70%
- Younger: 10%
- Same in both: 20%
- Do not know: 0%

If you have both dairy and meat goats, do you observe more footrot in your dairy goats than in your meat goats?

- Dairy: 70%
- Meat: 10%
- Same in dairy and meat: 20%
- Not sure: 0%
- Do not have dairy and meat goats: 0%

What is the most effective treatment for footrot in your herd?

- Footbath: 70%
- Injectable antimicrobials: 10%
- Antimicrobials in the feed: 20%
- Antimicrobials in the water: 0%
- Foot trimming: 0%
- Culling: 0%
- Other: 0%
TREATMENT FOR FOOTROT:

- % goats treated for footrot:
  - Breeding Does: 22%
  - Breeding Bucks: 10%
  - Pre-weaned Kids: 0%
  - Post-weaned Kids: 0%
- 33% of producers did not know how many animals were treated for footrot
- Footrot culling rate: 0%, but 30% of producers did not know
- Footrot mortality rate: 1 herd reported 10%, rest 0%, but 10% did not know

Outbreak = treating ≥ 10% of the animals in a group e. g., pen or pasture, within a week.

Photo credit: Alberta Goat Association
DURING THE LAST YEAR, WHAT ANTIMICROBIALS DID YOU USE TO TREAT FOOTROT IN YOUR GOATS?

Most important economic losses from footrot:

- Drug costs
- Labor costs
- Death losses
- Culling losses
- Performance losses
- Discarded milk losses

Other = topical copper spray
Have you ever used an autogenous vaccine i.e., vaccine made from bacterial isolates from your herd or other local herds to prevent/control footrot in your goats?

If yes, do you believe the autogenous vaccine reduced disease rates for footrot in your goats?

VACCINE PRODUCTION:

What is the maximum annual price per head that would be cost-effective for you to pay for a footrot vaccine for your goats?

What size of dosage vials of footrot vaccine would work best for your goat operation based on the size of your herd?
Main reason that would limit your use of a footrot vaccine

- Don’t believe vaccines work
- Price of vaccine too high
- Frequency of vaccinating too often
- Lack of labor or facilities
- Fear of negative side effects
- Don’t have an issue with footrot

If a choice between imported footrot vaccine or Canadian footrot vaccine, what would you base your decision on?

- Most effective vaccine
- Lowest priced vaccine
- Shortest milk withdrawal period
- Number of vaccinations needed
- Shortest meat withdrawal period
- Lowest volume vaccine
- Multiple different ads (doses) of vaccine
PRODUCER RESPONSES ON SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT ATTRIBUTE OF A CANADIAN CAPRINE FOOTROT VACCINE:
• Producer responses on single most important attribute of a Canadian caprine footrot vaccine:
  • Effective: 71%
  • Safe: 6%
  • Single dose: 11%
  • Long duration of immunity: 6%
  • Cost effective: 6%
  • Route SC, low volume, short meat/milk withdrawal period: 0%