PREGNANCY TOXEMIA

- A.K.A - Ketosis, twin-lamb/kid disease, lambing paralysis, pregnancy disease

- Occurs during last 2-4 w. of gestation
  - Approx. 70% of fetal growth occurs in the last few weeks of gestation
CAUSES

- Low glucose in the blood → excessive breakdown of body fat to compensate → ketones in blood and urine
  - Toxic by product of fat breakdown
- Multiple fetuses (2 or more)
  - Extra demand for energy
- Poor feed, cold weather, lack of exercise, stress
- Ewe/Doe is too fat
  - not enough room in the stomach to eat enough
  - More fat to breakdown
CAUSES

- Ewe/Doe is too thin
  - Cannot eat enough to meet their own nutritional needs
  - Therefore cannot consume enough for fetus
SYMPTOMS

- Isolate themselves
- Anorexia, weakness, depression
- May appear blind
- Neurologic signs - tremors, star-gazing, incoordination, circling, teeth grinding, coma
- SQ edema of lower limbs
- May last form 12 hrs to 10 days
- Death of fetus releases toxins that hasten demise of the doe
  - Mortality ~80%
C-section, induce parturition

Try to meet glucose requirements
- Propylene glycol - 40-60mL twice daily
- Corn syrup, glucose IV, feed or inject B vitamins, electrolyte solutions
- Kid/lamb - colostrum from functional ruminant if dam is not available
Prevention

- Increase high energy concentrates and grains during last month of pregnancy
- Protein balance in ration
  - For ruminal microbe function
PREVENTION

- Special care for thin does/ewes
- Do not let dam get too fat
- Easier to prevent than to treat