Scours
Sheep and Goats.

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Symptoms

Scours shouldn’t be considered an illness in itself, but rather a symptom of a more serious illness.

- Increased fluidity of fecal excretion.
- Increased frequency of fecal excretion.
- Increased volume of fecal excretion.
- Feces may contain blood or mucus.
Causes

Diarrhea in sheep and goats is a complex, multi-factorial disease involving the animal, the environment, nutrition, and infectious agents.
### Infectious causes of diarrhea in sheep and lambs

**Bacterial**
- *E. coli*
- *Salmonella sp.*
- *Clostridium perfringens*

**Viral**
- Rotavirus
- Coronavirus

**Protozoa**
- Cryptosporidia
- Coccidia (*Eimeria sp.*)
- *Giardia sp.*

### Non-infectious causes (or contributing factors)

**Parasitic**
- Gastro-intestinal worms
  - (not *Haemonchus*)

**Nutritional**
- Dietary changes
- Overfeeding
- Simple indigestion
- Inadequate consumption of colostrum
- Poor quality colostrum
- Poor quality or stagnant water
- Lush or wet pasture
- Plant and fungal toxins
- Allergies

**Management (Poor environment)**
- Overstocking / overcrowding
- Poor sanitation

**Stress**
- Weaning
- Handling
Treatment

- Take animals temperature to determine if fever is present.
- Administer fluids and electrolytes to rehydrate the animal.
- Can orally dose Pepto-Bismol, Kaopectate for non-infectious causes of scours.
- Probiotics such as ProBios can be administered to help treat scours.
- For bacterial causes, antibiotics such as oxytetracycline, penicillin can be used.