



SHEEP SHEET

by **Dr. Lyle G. McNeal, Executive Director, Sheep & Wool Specialist**

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Examination of the Sick Lamb:

- The diagnosis of a problem in a sick newborn lamb depends on a careful examination.
- The temptation to jump at the apparently obvious symptom should be avoided - something of equal importance may be missed.
- Always follow the routine outlined below:

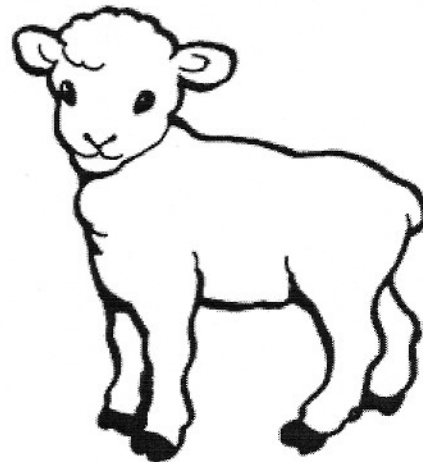
Before physically examining the lamb ask yourself the following questions:

1. How old is it? Many problems are age related.
2. Was its birth assisted or protracted? It may have suffered severe hypoxia (high susceptibility to hypothermia), or it may have been injured (fractured ribs).
3. Is ewe thin or diseased? Lamb will have had little colostrum and may be starving.
4. Is the lamb very big? Birth problems likely.
5. Is the lamb very small? May be premature (susceptible to hypothermia).
6. Is the lamb weak AND unable to stand? A systemic or 'whole lamb' problem such as hypothermia.
7. Is the lamb strong BUT unable to stand? A problem affecting nerves or muscle such as swayback.

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8. Is breathing fast and/or heavy? Is the lamb lame on one leg? Fracture, joint ill or scad. Fractured ribs, pneumonia or prematurity (lungs poorly expanded)
9. Is the lamb's abdomen empty and tucked up. Starvation.
10. Is the lamb's abdomen swollen or brown? Watery mouth.
11. Has the lamb a poor birth coat? Prematurity or border disease.



For more information write:

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