Control of Maedi Visna at farm level

Need/issue: Maedi Visna control.

Aim: To give clear instructions for the control of Maedi Visna in farms.

How to implement:

- Early diagnosis of infected animals.
  - Infection rate < 10% - slaughtering of positive animals and their offspring.
  - Infection rate > 10% - removal of newborns from their mothers, given colostrum from healthy animals and artificially fed.
- The detection of animal genes associated with disease resistance or susceptibility.

Description:

- Progressive Pneumonia is a slow-growing disease that leads to progressive weakness and eventually death.
- The main source of infection is the intake of colostrum by an infected mother. The disease progresses slowly and clinical symptoms are observed in older animals.
- It is widespread in Europe providing serious threat for the sustainability of the sheep sector.

Expected benefits:

Additional revenue due to the added value of disease, free breeders. Reduced consumption of chemotherapeutics (antibiotics). Possibility of increasing milk production, better growth of lambs and improvement of animal welfare.

Prerequisites and/or limits:

- Due to the high mutation rate of the virus, the detection of infected animals by PCR might lead to false negative results.
- Maedi Visna eradication requires a long time.
- Early diagnosis is very important to take the necessary remedial measures.
- The existence of housing facilities with enough room so that the flock can be divided into 2 groups raised separately at the beginning of the protocol implementation.

Country: Greece

Dairy or/and meat sheep: Dairy sheep

Category of Animal (ewe, replacement, lamb):
Ewe & Lamb

Topic:

- [X] Health
- [ ] Nutrition
- [X] Management

Level of solution:

- [X] Knowledge
- [X] Practical

Source of information:

Th. Tsiligianni, E. Ntovolou and G. S. Amiridis. Synchronization of lambing with low doses of dexamethasone. Acta Veterinaria Hungarica 56(3):393-397 (2008).

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N° 863056