A Ruptured Bladder in a Sheep

A 4-year-old, trained bell wether developed a distended abdomen and a moderate depression. He also failed to urinate. Abdominocentesis yielded 3 gallons of urine. Excision of the posterior urethra revealed an occlusion by a calculus the size of a barley grain.

Upon laparotomy, the bladder was found to be so contracted that repair seemed impossible. Therefore, a No. 26 plastic infusion tube was introduced through the urethra until it just entered the bladder. The abdominal incision was then sutured. The free end of the tube was tied with tape, anterior to the prepare. Within ten minutes, urine began to drip from the tube slowly but continuously. On the fifth day, the patient was noticed forcing urine past the tube so the latter was removed. Urination soon became normal. Apparently the lacerated bladder had healed.—Southwest. Vet. Spring, 1933.

Intestinal Intussusception

A 3-month-old female terrier pup had not eaten well for five days and had started vomiting. A sausage-shaped object could be palpated in the abdomen and a radiograph showed a tumor mass with some gas. Upon laparotomy, two intussusceptions of the small intestine were found and were reduced. A cord could be palpated in the intestine and a small mass in the stomach. Gastronomy revealed a plastic sausage casing attached to a bloody cord. The casing was too large to pass the pyloric outlet and the cord had apparently stimulated violent intestinal peristalsis, resulting in two intussusceptions. The patient made an uneventful recovery.—M.S.C. Vet., Winter, 1934.

Treatment of Range Ewes with Estradiol Cyclopentylpropionate to Control Breeding—A Field Trial

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Most of the sheep raisers in our area of West Texas follow the practice of having their range ewes lamb during a 15-day period beginning sometime in February or period ending in March. Very little lambing occurs after mid-April because severe warm flies are almost certain to have appeared by that time and because the growth of baby lambs is endangered by the approach of dry summer pastures. Considering the gestation period then, most of the local ranchmen turn rams in with the ewe flocks in mid-September and remove them before or in mid-June for a 15-day period, and under this type of program a 50 to 60 per cent lamb crop is considered excellent. The early summer breeding is possible because Ramboillots are by far the predominating breed in the area, and it is an accepted fact that they can be bred at any time of the year, although with greater success in the autumn months. Furthermore, the climate affords such a favorable environment that seasonal impairment of libido and semen quality has not been shown to occur here.

During the first week of November, three to four rams are used per 100 ewes, and under such a program, lamb crops of 60 to 90 per cent may be expected. A minority of the breeders raise winter lambs in order to take advantage of the higher prices offered for off-season lamb. Rams are turned into the ewe flocks during the last week of August. Since breeders in the eastern states may wonder about the low lamb crop percentages quoted above, it seems appropriate to explain that range conditions are far different from those encountered by farm flock sheep. Limited rainfall is often such that south western ranges do not produce sufficient forage for optimum breeding conditions. For the same reason, West Texas ranchmen do not select breeding ewes with the twin...
appears to have been served. This required the sow being served at least once. When breeding was complete, a grade of hogs was selected for further investigation to determine the results of the experiment described in this paper. The trial described in the paper was begun at a time which coincided with the customary summer-breeding season.

**EXPERIMENTAL METHODS**

The ewes used in the field trial were 61 purebred Rambouillet rams ranging in age from 2 to 7 years. They were grazing a summer pasture composed of turf grasses, bunch grasses, and brush, and were receiving no supplemental feed. The 4 rams used were registered 2 to 14-year-old Rambouillet. As the beginning of the trial, on June 30, all the sheep were in excellent condition. The weather was favorable for sheep breeding, being only comfortable during the day and cool at night.

The rams were divided into two equal groups by random selection and were penned separately in the barns. The rams in one group were treated with 1 mg. of the drug, given intramuscularly, while the other group was untreated and continued the controls. The rams were penned together for the duration of the trial. The rams were turned onto the pasture simultaneously with the ewes and remained with them for the consecutive days. Their culls were penned with a nearby, relatively small farm that would mark the rams of any ewes served. The rams were treated as follows: 2

At the beginning of the trial, all sheep in the pasture were gathered at frequent intervals and the brand number recorded for each ewe, which was sampled through courtesy of the Livestock Computers, Oklahoma City.

**RESULTS**

Graph 1 shows in detail the rate at which the true groups of rams served the surveyed area of the pasture, while Graph 2 represents the lambing data. There was no apparent deviation from normal in the sex ratio of lambs in either group.

**DISCUSSION**

With respect to the breeding activity early in the trial, it is interesting to note that within 10 days following treatment, indications were that 75 per cent of the treated ewes had been served, as compared with 81 per cent of the controls. By the first day of the trial, 75 per cent of the ewes were treated, and the groups were not equally treated equally. It was noted that the treatment of the ewes was satisfactory, and this is a significant factor in the success of the experiment. The most interesting and significant aspect of the lambing data can be visualized by comparing the results of the two groups in a hypothetical manner, i.e., if the rams had been removed after a 45-day breeding period (which is customary in our locality), then the lines in graph 2 would have extended beyond 200 days, at which time the treated ewes had produced a 12.5 per cent lamb crop compared with 56.25 per cent for the controls. Thus, the treatments had produced a normal lamb crop for that time of the year.

It was fortunate that the trial was not conducted on the basis of a 45-day breeding period, for the question as to whether any permanent deleterious effects had occurred in the treated ewes was answered. Referring again to graph 2, the trial results are that although conception in the treated ewes was delayed, their lamb crop compared favorably with that of the controls at the end of the trial; it was assumed, therefore, that no permanent impairment of fertility occurred.

The methods used did not provide for determining whether an indication occurred as a result of the nonproductive estrous periods in the treated ewes, nor was any attempt made to determine how many estrous periods occurred between the time of treatment and conception. This information would be of much academic interest but was not essential to the purpose of the trial.

In all fairness to the drug under consideration, it is noted that the results reported here do not detract from any value it may have as a therapeutic agent. Neither can it be considered as applying to those breeds of sheep having a more prolonged, seasonal reproductive period, without further experimentation.

**SUMMARY**

A field trial was described in which Rambouillet range rams were treated with estradiol cyclopentylpropionate and allowed to breed at pasture for a 45-day period, along with a small number of controls. Results are shown graphically.

There were indications of induced breeding activity in the treated rams shortly after treatment; however, the lambing data for the treated rams did not correlate favorably with the data for the controls. Had the lambing period been terminated at the end of forty-five days, in accordance with local custom, the treated rams would have produced a 12.5 per cent lamb crop as compared with 56.25 per cent for the controls.

**CONCLUSIONS**

The intramuscular injection of 1 mg. of estradiol cyclopentylpropionate did not produce a satisfactory degree of controlled breeding in Rambouillet range rams under the conditions of the field trial described.

A tight management should not be placed on a dog's eye when anesthetized, unless a tube is placed in the trachea. Otherwise, the animal may be stratified.

D. A. Price and W. T. Hardy

- A.M.A. 1948

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Graph 1—Rate of lambing following treatment of ewes with estradiol cyclopentylpropionate.
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