

Toxoplasmosis

Can cause major flock health and production problems

- Abortion in sheep due to infection with the parasite *Toxoplasma gondii*
- Transmission by ingesting infective oocysts on pasture or in contaminated feed and water
- *Toxoplasma* is not spread horizontally between sheep in a flock



- Diagnosis by blood sampling sheep to show exposure to the parasite
- Post mortem examination of dead lambs/placenta
- There is an effective live vaccine available - use with care according to manufacturer's instructions

Key points

- Use vaccine on replacement females at least 3 weeks before mating
- Keep older, neutered resident cats on the farm
- Keep feed bins covered
- *Toxoplasma* can infect humans and is a particular danger for pregnant women

