Parasitic skin diseases of goats and sheep

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- lice and keds
- ear mites
- chorioptic mange
- demodectic mange
- sarcoptic mange
Clinical signs

- pruritus
- rub, scratch, chew
- ragged fleece
- scratch at ears
- crusts
- nodules in skin
- anemia
Lice and keds
Louse infestation
Lice

- Both biting and sucking
Damalinia – biting louse
Linognathus sucking louse
*Melophagus ked* ("sheep tick")
Diagnosis of external parasites

• fleece parting
• flea comb and dissecting scope (goats)
• skin scrapings for mites
Treatment

• Shearing/clipping!!! Natural shedding in the spring also helps alleviate lice and mange problems
• *nondairy* animals - ivermectin if suck blood or burrow,
• goats 150-200% of sheep dose
• Eprinex (dairy)
• permethrins
• flea powders
• lime sulfur
Backliner for louse control
Ear mites
Mange mites

- chorioptic
- demodectic
- psoroptic
- sarcoptic
Chorioptic mange

- *Chorioptes ovis*
- *Chorioptes caprae*
- host specific
- surface dwelling, can scrape off crusts into ziplock bag to see if you can identify
- papules, crusts, erythema, alopecia
- lower limbs, scrotum, perineum
- lime sulfur, repeated eprinomectin
Chorioptes on goat pastern
Diagnose mites from pedicels on pretarsi
Sarcoptic mange

- *Sarcoptes scabei* in goats
- very pruritic
- head, then generalized
- hyperkeratosis, alopecia, crusting, fissures
- Must take deep scrapings because this mite is very small and burrows deep to lay its eggs. KOH digestion necessary to see these mites. May be very difficult.

- **Nondairy** animals ivermectin subcut, eprinomectin orally. Prolate/Lintox-HD is also not licensed for dairy cattle within 28 days of freshening or any lactating dairy animals

- If lime-sulfur or other chemical sprays are used, apply spray with high pressure hydraulic equipment if at all possible to actually make contact with the mite
Sarcoptes mites

Long, unjointed pedicels
Demodectic mange

- *Demodex ovis*
- *Demodex caprae*
- cigar-shaped mites
- distend hair follicles – pea sized
- occasionally generalize
- topical amitraz, systemic avermectins
Demodectic mites are easy to find, as masses of them fill up the hair follicle that has been transformed into a skin nodule.
Demodex from a goat
Prevention of External Parasites

• When buying new animals – examine very carefully prior to purchase and segregate them from your animals for several weeks for close observation.

• Work with your veterinarian to treat for mange and lice during quarantine with substances that are safe for your animal species. Special considerations if animals are lactating or in late pregnancy or herd/flock is organically certified.

• Avoid purchase of resistant lice.