

Sanitary profile of sheep and goat flocks in Brazil - Alves F.S.F.^{1*}, Santiago L.B.¹, Lima A.M.C.², Farias D.A.³, Cavalcante A.C.R.¹, Pinheiro R.R.¹, Alves S.M.²

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Animal health is important and strategically to every country, but especially to those described as leaders in food production. Considering specifically caprine and ovine products, Brazil has a great potential of market and favorable environmental conditions to generate food of high biological value. Nevertheless, high mortality rates due to disease occurrence result in severe economic losses to the producers and considerable risks to public health. Data scarceness is one of the obstacles that prevent the improvement of sanitary profile of small ruminant flocks in Brazil. Therefore, an epidemiological inquiry has been developed in nine states of this country to determine the prevalence of the nine main infectious diseases of sheep and goats and to characterize the systems production. Over 500 rural properties had been visited and 12,000 small ruminants serum samples had been collected. The diagnosis of Caprine Arthritis-Encephalitis, Maedi-Visna and Ovine Epididymitis had been finished in six states. With those results, a technical note was sent to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food Supply (MAPA) in order to support and guide the National Program of Caprine and Ovine Health (PNSCO), which has been under planning since 2004. Blue Tongue had already been diagnosed in six states, Leptospirosis in four, Chlamydophilosis and Toxoplasmosis in two and Neosporosis in only one. The analysis of Caseous Lymphadenitis will be started at the second semester of 2012. A new project proposal was sent to MP2/2012 aiming to execute the same study in another ten states of Brazil.

Key-words: epidemiology, infectious diseases, small ruminants

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