

**ABSTRACTS**  
**\* Author Presenting Paper**

**118 Lower leg and foot lameness related to the environment in commercial sheep and swine operations. G Kennedy\*<sup>1</sup>, <sup>1</sup>*Pipestone Veterinary Clinic, MN.***

This presentation will be a clinician's viewpoint, based on field experience.

The infectious diseases of foot scald and foot rot have proven to be difficult to control in the sheep industry. Foot rot is the one sheep disease other than scrapie that is capable of putting someone out of the sheep business.

Environmental conditions, moisture and temperature are factors in allowing these two diseases to propagate. These diseases do not do well in cold or dry conditions.

Foot baths are used to control the disease. Zinc sulfate baths are more effective if wet environmental conditions exist. Formaldehyde baths at ten-day intervals are more effective against scald and preferred in eradication programs. Feet must be trimmed prior to the use of formaldehyde. Hoof trimming, vaccinations and antibiotic treatment help control the disease. Preventative measures are based on quarantines and isolation. Swine present different problems than sheep. The environment plays a larger role. Swine lameness is a result of their housing or structural unsoundness. Animals that are not bred to be structurally sound do not tolerate confinement well.

Feet and leg soundness affect gilt selection rates. Abrasions due to concrete surfaces affect hoof, fetlock and hock areas. Selection rates of gilts raised on partial slats or waffle slats are higher than those reared on conventional slats. Overcrowding reduces selection rates.

Foot and leg problems are more severe on green concrete. Improper ventilation resulting in increased moisture increases foot and leg problems. Incorrect sow conditioning increases problems.

Crate design and material type are factors. Some boar studs use individual pens for housing, particularly in Europe. In this country, crates are used, but valuable terminal boars that don't need to be as structurally sound or injured boars are moved to pens and often do well with additional room and attention.

Lower leg and foot lameness in sheep is generally infectious in nature and enhanced by environmental conditions. Environmental components generally cause swine lameness. Infectious agents may contribute as a secondary factor.