

STOP Coccidiosis

before it spreads



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Coccidiosis, at a glance

What is it?

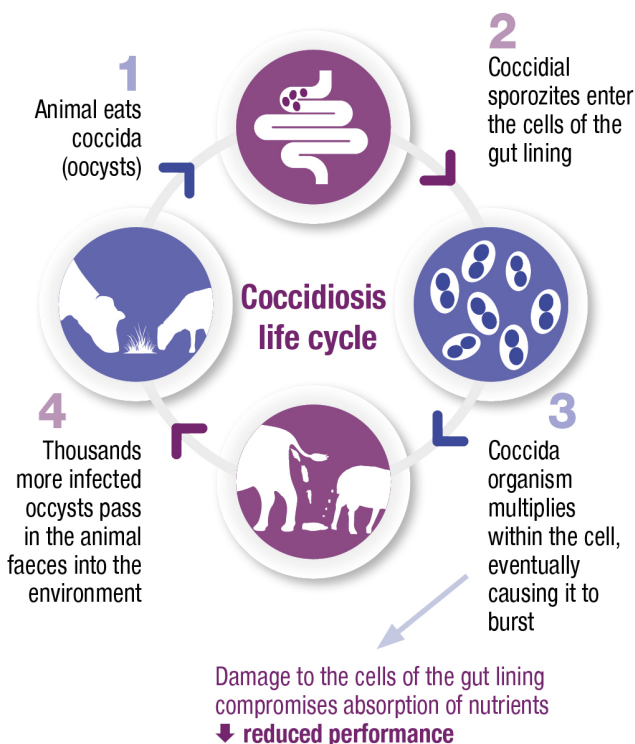
A disease that causes productivity losses in calves and lambs – often without obvious clinical signs.

What causes it?

Microscopic protozoal organisms called Eimeria, which all ruminants kept under normal conditions will encounter.^{1,2}

How do animals get it?

By consuming coccidia oocysts when grazing or exploring surroundings. Coccidiosis is host-specific though, meaning calves cannot infect lambs and vice versa.

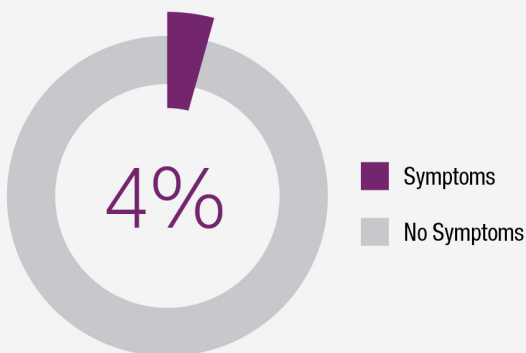


A big problem... even when you can't see it

Coccidiosis can cause disease, with clinical signs including bloody or black diarrhoea, lethargy and even death. It is most commonly seen in the spring, in young animals. However, **the percentage of animals in an infected group with clinical signs is typically low** and often zero.

Sub-clinical disease is much more common and causes the most financial damage to a farm.

Calves and lambs infected with coccidiosis that showed clinical symptoms



Sub-clinical coccidiosis: negatively affects an animal **without pronounced clinical signs**



3 steps to stop the spread

1

Good hygiene:

Coccidiosis thrives in warm, damp housing and dirty bedding, and can survive for extended periods in the environment.

2

Close monitoring:

Watch for scour, weight loss, and poor thrive in calves and lambs. Apply good quarantine practices and avoid mixing of age groups.

3

Proactively protect:

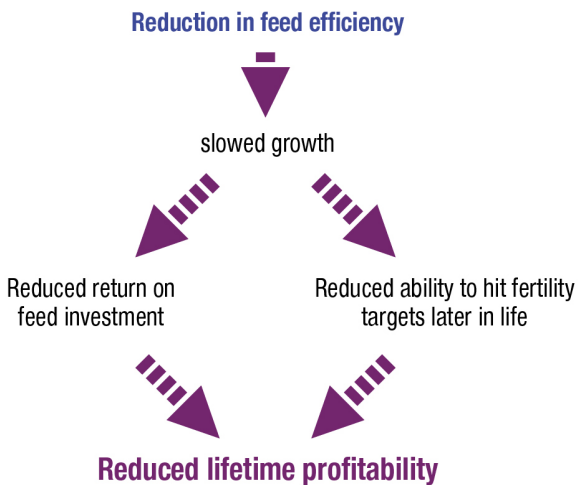
Speak to your vet about testing and prevention plans, including the targeted use of anti-coccidial products to avoid disease and reduce the overall contamination on farm.

Management tips to reduce coccidiosis risk

- ✓ Avoid soiled, wet bedding and change frequently
- ✓ Disinfect housing thoroughly between batches, using disinfectants that are licensed to kill coccidia (oocysts)
- ✓ Raise water troughs off the ground and move creep feeders around regularly
- ✓ Ensure good ventilation in housing, to manage humidity
- ✓ Don't mix age groups, as older animals may infect younger ones
- ✓ Avoid overcrowding
- ✓ If possible, keep clean pasture i.e. previous silage field/reseeded ground for young animals
- ✓ Reduce external stressors
- ✓ Implement good quarantine practices

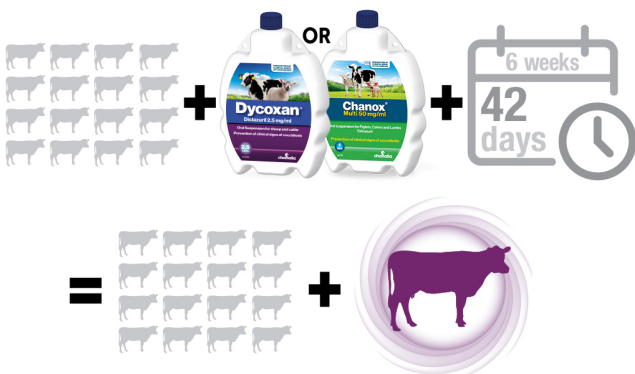
Protecting young animals pays

The greatest feed efficiency in cattle and sheep is achieved in early life. Colostrum-derived immunity also diminishes from four weeks of age, so **early protection against coccidiosis is essential.**



In a group of 16 dairy heifer calves, using an anti-coccidial has been shown to lead to increased weight gains equivalent to an extra calf in just 6 weeks.¹⁻⁷

An extra calf in six weeks



Find out more at
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