

THE PREVALENCE AND DIAGNOSTIC METHODS OF EWES ENZOOTIC ABORTION IN LITHUANIA

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Summary. The purpose of performed research was to investigate the prevalence of enzootic abortion of ewes (EAE) caused by *Chlamydiae* in Lithuania and to compare the sensibility and specificity of different diagnostic methods. The clinical, serological and immunological tests in different range sheep farms were performed in 2004–2005. For diagnosis of EAE the sensitivity of complement fixation reaction (CF) and immunofluorescence (IF) was compared. CF revealed that 26.9 % of tested sheep were positive to EAE. Analysis of different sheep groups according age revealed that the lowest number of infected sheep was registered in >18 month age group (23.1%, antibodies titre 3.191 log₂, P<0,05) and highest in 18-24 month age group (53.8% antibodies titre 4.224, log₂, P<0,001). In sheep aged <3 years titre of antibodies was significantly reduced. The majority of infected sheep (86.4%) was registered in 18-24 month age group. Furthermore, in aborted sheep was registered 2.5 fold higher infection level compared to non-aborted sheep. Analysis of surears from patologocal material by IF revealed that 54.5 % of animals were positive to *Chlamydophila abortus ovis* infection. The highest prevalence of chlamydia (66.7%) was registered in placentas of aborted sheep.

Key words: enzootic abortion, ewes, complement fixation, imunofluorescence.