Cysticercus ovis infection and the Canadian sheep industry: an emerging problem

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Outbreak at Ontario Feedlot

• Large Ontario feedlot with a 4000 head capacity
  ▪ handles 25 000 animals per year

• February – May 2008, 12% (~300 animals) of all animals marketed were condemned

• Total carcass condemnations
Cysticercus ovis

- *Cysticercus ovis* is the intermediate form of the canine tapeworm *Taenia ovis*
Federal Lamb Condemnation Statistics for *Cysticercus ovis* in Canada, 2002-2010*

- *Year 2010 data not complete*

* 2010 data not complete
Objectives of Study

1) Determine the origin of animals condemned due to *Cysticercus ovis*

2) Determine on-farm risk factors associated with carcass condemnations
C. ovis Traceback

Condemned animal at Ontario Provincial Abattoir

Canadian Sheep Federation

Provincial Veterinarians

Contact Producer
C. ovis Condemnations at Ontario Abattoirs -
C. ovis Condemnations at Ontario Abattoirs

C= condemnations
Summary

- *C. ovis* has become a national issue in recent years
- Can now successfully trace-back condemned carcasses to their farm of origin
- Endemic transmission is occurring in Ontario
Future Work

• What factors are associated with a farm having a *C. ovis* condemnation?

• Develop a disease transmission model and evaluate control options.

• Recommend practical control and prevention strategies for producers.
Acknowledgments

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