PREVENTION OF LEGS' AFFECTIONS IN OVINES USING PROPOLIS

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Introduction

Legs' affections are given a lot of importance in Uruguay, lately, since the traditional methods employed were not able to control their spreading, and the ovines' breeding suffered significant damages.

The positive results we have obtained in treating legs' affections with propolis urged us to use it for prevention also.

Material and Method

The experiments were carried out on 80 adult rams (cloven-footed), originating from farms which had shown legs' affections in the two previous years before the experiment. Each animal was studied and observations were drawn that three of them had no symptoms, but only whity spots in the interdigital region. Samples were taken for the analysis through imunofluorescence, which has established the presence of *Bacteroides nodosus.* We have applied the following methodology: monthly applications with propolis solution were made on the interdigital region (site where microorganisms in latent form are found). The animal's hoofs were separated so as to leave free this interdigital region, on which a sufficient propolis solution was to be applied.

During the experiment the animals were left on a white clover pasture. We would like to point out that the National Direction of Meteorology would daily supply us data on the air temperature, soil temperature, humidity and precipitations. These data were related to the latest two years, fact which allowed us to make a comparison between September and October periods of each year and to note that the previous year has been less rainy than the previous ones.

Results

Out of those 80 animals receiving propolis applications between August and December, none became a clinical case. Compared to previous years, only 7% were affected and 22% respectively out of the total number of animals.

Discussions

In Uruguay, this experiment is the first trial for prevention treat-

ment of ovines with propolis, against legs' diseases. Our aim was to determine the preventive action of this product. This has been proven and makes us carry out new experiments starting from the epidemiology of microorganism which affects the hoof's diseases.

Good results are obtained with a minimum effort engaged, by applying the product 2—3 times/year.

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