

## Small Ruminant Adult Mortality (SRAM) Project

For those practitioners who have already signed up for the project – thank you! By now, you should have received a tissue collection kit and a user log-in name and password. All you need is a postmortem knife, rib-cutters, a pair of scissors and a smart-phone, tablet or digital camera and you should be all set!

For those of you who wish to participate in the project, log onto the SRAM project website at <https://www.uoguelph.ca/srmort/> to review project goals and to request an account by clicking on the link. This will generate a form to be filled out and an email will be sent to the project administrators. After verifying that the requester is a licensed Ontario veterinarian, a user name and password will be emailed by the project administrators. Log onto the website and review these pages to prepare before performing an on-farm postmortem and submitting the required information and samples to the Animal Health Laboratory:

- ◆ Getting Started on your Case
- ◆ Postmortem Protocols

Send an e-mail to: [sr.mort@uoguelph.ca](mailto:sr.mort@uoguelph.ca) to request a tissue collection kit. Include the name of the veterinarian, veterinary clinic and full address. These will be shipped to the clinic via Purolator, and a return Purolator shipping label will be included in the Documents package.

We look forward to receiving your cases at the AHL for laboratory testing. If you need some assistance to get started, please feel free to contact Dr. Maria Spinato ([mspinato@uoguelph.ca](mailto:mspinato@uoguelph.ca)). The video posted under the “postmortem protocols” page on the website takes only 17 minutes to view, and demonstrates all of the tissue samples and photographs required to be uploaded for each case.

**PRACTICE TIP:** Just a caution – autolysed samples will be rejected. If tissues have turned a delicate shade of green, we won't be able to obtain any diagnostic results, which is a disappointing outcome for you, your client, and the project team. It is difficult during this time of year to obtain reasonably fresh samples, but careful questioning prior to setting out to the farm may prevent unnecessary work and rejected cases – please refer to Figures 1 and 2. If you have to save samples over the weekend for shipment, it would be OK to freeze the head and fresh tissues. The formalin-fixed tissues are fine at room temperature.

Your participation in the project is crucial to our understanding of the diseases associated with adult small ruminant mortality in Ontario. By submitting postmortems done in the manner outlined, you are helping contribute disease surveillance information valuable to the industry -- thank you! Again, thanks for participating; we are waiting eagerly to receive your cases!



Figure 1. Well-preserved sheep carcass.



Figure 2. Autolysed sheep carcass.