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Jenna Wilson: Urolithiasis (water belly) in sheep

Jenna is a student in the Animal Health Program at TRU. Jenna discussed Urolithiasis in sheep, also known as water belly or urinary calculi.

- These stones have a high calcium apatite or magnesium content, and are usually caused by a diet high in grain, low in roughage – show lambs are frequently afflicted
- Blockage can occur in the sigmoid flexure and the end of the urethra
- Symptoms include: teeth grinding; difficulty urinating; dribbling; straining; abdominal pain; swelling of prepuce
- Untreated animals will die
- Surgery to amputate the end of the urethra is mostly done on high value rams.
- Prevention
 - ✚ give adequate roughage, increase water intake
 - ✚ supplement diet with appropriate relationship of minerals
 - ✚ use of horse feed can increase risk of stones