SEROEPIDEMIOLOGIC SURVEY OF BRUCELLOSIS IN FLOCKS OF SHEEP FROM THE NORTHWEST REGION OF THE STATE OF SÃO PAULO

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The sheep industry has stood out increasingly in agribusiness, transforming the stage production stage in Brazil, even though there is a paucity of information regarding the epidemiology of diseases as well as the health conditions of the flock. Though, lie in the implementation phase of the National Health Goats and Sheep Program that come out to meet the wishes of farmers and veterinarians involved in such animal breeding. The aim of this study was to determine the occurrence of ovine brucellosis in herds in Northwestern region from São Paulo state using antibodies against smooth and rough strains of Brucella and to determine the sanitary and epidemiological conditions of the sheep flock in the Northwest region of São Paulo state.

The occurrence of brucellosis in sheep herds in northwestern São Paulo state was determined using serological tests with acidified antigen (TAA) and 2-Mercaptoethanol (2-ME) for smooth samples and agar-gel immunodiffusion (AGID) test for samples of rough Brucella. From 967 serum samples from sheep from 17 cities from the Northwestern region and the São Paulo state, 04 (0.41%) were positive, while 963 (99.58%) were negative on the AAT. Four samples were negative in 2-ME test. From 967 serum samples, 22 sheep (2.27%) were considered positive, while 945 (97.72%) were negative by AGID test. Consequently, the infection with smooth strains of Brucella samples did not characterize a sanitary problem for the sheep flock in the Northwestern region of São Paulo state. Despite the results obtained for rough strains samples occurrence is low, veterinarians need to be aware of the occurrence of this disease. Because this region is becoming an important center for breeding sheep, and herds are used for meat production, with a total number estimated to be nine million, some problems related to sanitary management are expected to emerge.

Keywords: Brucellosis, sheep, sanity, serology.

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