



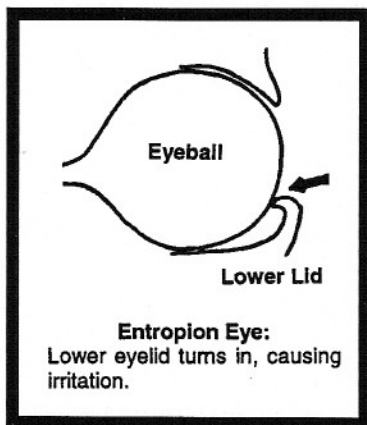
# SHEEP SHEET

by Dr. Lyle G. McNeal, Executive Director,  
NSP; Sheep & Wool Specialist;  
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## Entropion Eye, Turned in Eyelid

Sheepdex: H-13

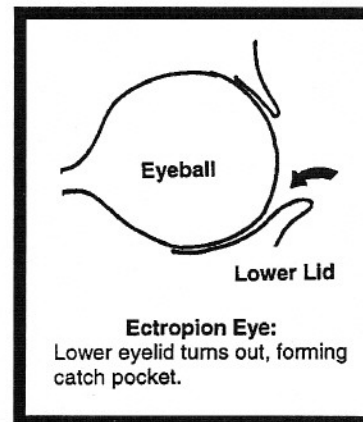
Entropion is distinguished by the inversion (turned inward) of the eyelids causing irritation and abrasions to the cornea of the lamb's eye with subsequent lacrimation usually occurring within the first week to two (2) weeks post-partum.



The condition is non-lethal, however the primary detriment due to this eyelid manifestation is one of economics and should result in the culling, at least of the lamb with the condition. Any sheep exhibiting and/or having been treated for entropion eye should not be retained for any prospective breeding replacement or sale animal.

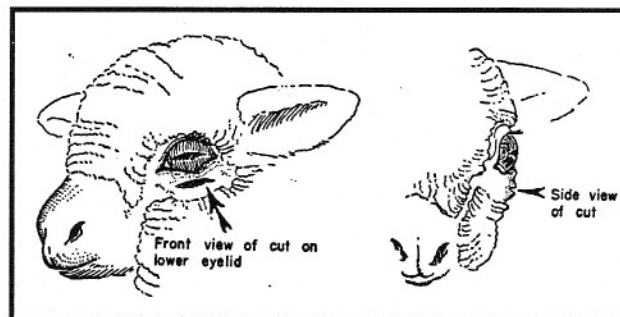
Entropion eye is found in all breeds of sheep and in both rams and ewes. Generally, the most common location of this condition is found on the lower eyelid. Either one (unilateral entropion) or both (bilateral entropion) eyes on the lamb may be involved with this condition.

Another similarly related eyelid condition that can be found on sheep, but at a lesser frequency is called ectropion eye. This is a condition where the lower (and sometimes the upper) eyelid are turned outward. In this manner the eyelid becomes a mechanism to catch foreign material and serve like a pouch or pocket for debris that can also damage the cornea and eye in similar ways as the entropion.



The primary cause of this malady is not fully known, but is suspected to be predisposed due to genetic inheritance. However, a few others also share the opinion that an environmental factor e.g. The extended use of heat lamps or ultraviolet irradiation, may also bring on this condition.

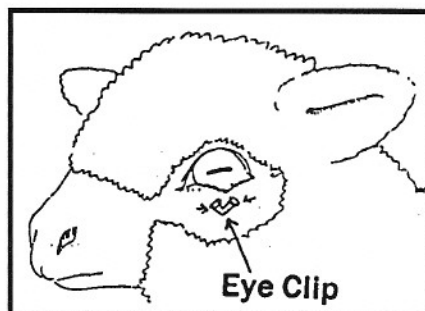
It has also been found that some genetic family lines within the white-face breeds of sheep tend to be more prone to this fault. Clinically, entropion eye may go unnoticed or misdiagnosed as a pink-eye conjunctivitis. The first clinical response is excessive lacrimation which moistens the hair of the face. If uncorrected, the inverted lower eyelid damages the cornea of the eye by ulceration, cloudiness of the cornea, and eventually blindness.



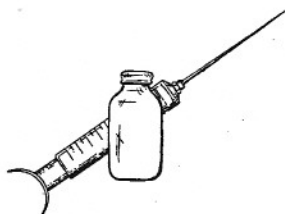
Diagnosis is by closely examining the eyelids of all lambs at docking, castration, or tagging time. Any lambs that have lacrimation soiling the hair on the side of the face is suspect. Shepherds correct the condition by surgically removing an elliptical portion of the skin under the lower lid with a sharp pocket knife or curved tip surgical scissors. The ensuing scar formation draws the lower lid into proper placement.

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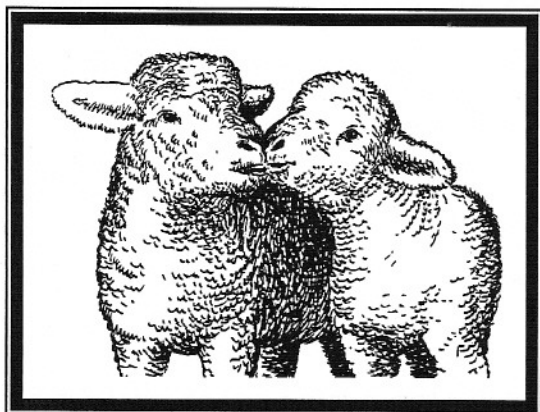
*The Navajo Sheep Project;  
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A more esthetic correction is made by injecting 1 ml of a long-acting, slowly absorbed antibiotic under the skin of the lower lid into proper position. Stainless steel surgery clips or staples are also utilize to draw up the skin of the lower lid correcting the inversion.



These procedures are most effective early in the life of the lambs so affected, especially while the skin is softer and more pliable. Advanced cases may require surgical removal of an elliptical piece of skin with suturing. An eye (ophthalmic) ointment may also be indicate in cases of corneal damage.



Replacement and breeding stock should be selected from animals known free of this non-lethal condition.