Short term goal is to investigate sheep flock routines to pin-point down reasons for high lamb mortality rates

Long term goal is to improve sheep flock health which in turns leads to increased lamb survival rates and improved animal welfare

Aiming for implementations to be preventive, sustainable and affordable

SILENCE OF THE LAMBS - An ongoing PhD-study on lamb mortality in the Ethiopian highlands

Context

- Lamb survival is crucial for good productivity in sheep production.
- According to previous studies, lamb mortality rates in small-holder sheep flocks have repeatedly been reported to be high in Ethiopia (20-50%).
- All sheep flock routines - from handling the non-pregnant ewe, throughout her pregnancy and delivery, and the first months of the lamb’s life - can affect the lamb survival rates.

Approach

- Via interviews and clinical examinations, data is collected to evaluate such routines and find possible limitations.
- Targeting limitations could prevent lamb mortality with easy, affordable measures in a sustainable manner.
- Implementation of interventions is possible via e.g. community conversations in Livestock CRP sites.

Desired outcome

- An intervention plan with suitable preventive flock routines to improve the sheep productivity and welfare.

Future steps

- Expand to be applicable for different herd health issues, in different areas and in different species.

Project Status

- Project’s first data collection is ending in June 2020. Data management and statistical calculations are ongoing.

Partners

Farm and Animal Health, Sweden.