



SOUTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY EXTENSION

Chute-side Ultrasound Reference for Ewes



Ultrasound uses high-frequency sound waves sent into the ewe's body. These waves bounce off internal structures and return to the probe, creating an image based on how much sound is reflected.

Ultrasound Color Legend:

- Grey: Soft Tissue (Muscle, organs)
- White: Dense structures (Bone, connective tissue)
- Black: Fluid (No sound reflected)

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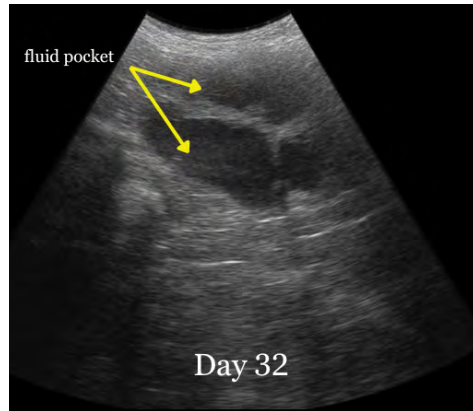
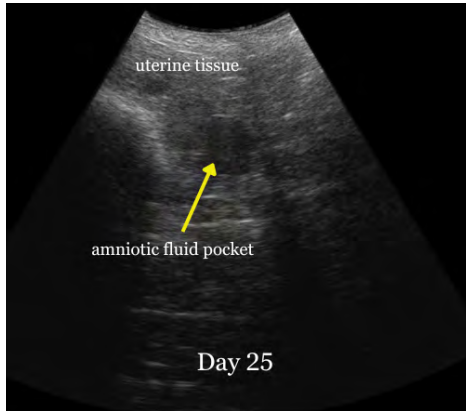
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P-00336-01-Chute-Reference

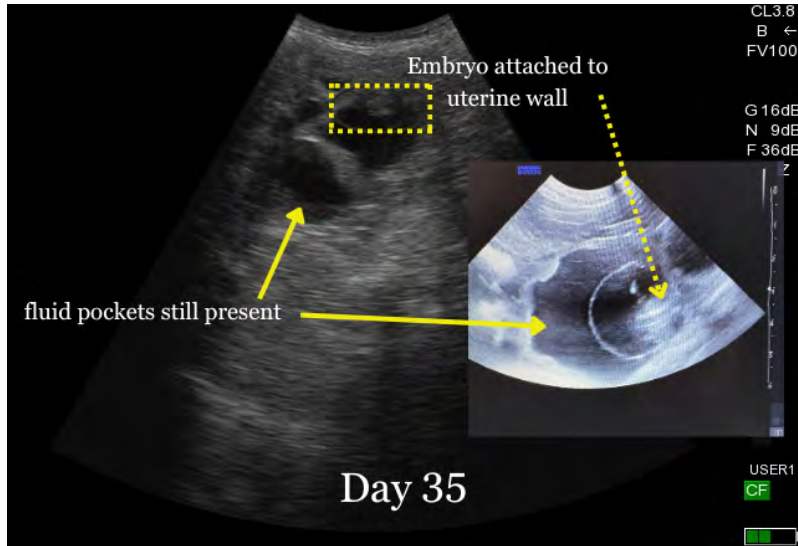
Open: Uterine tissue is shown with no fluid-filled structures or fetal components present.



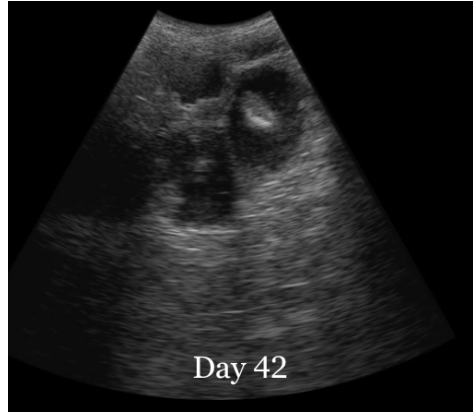
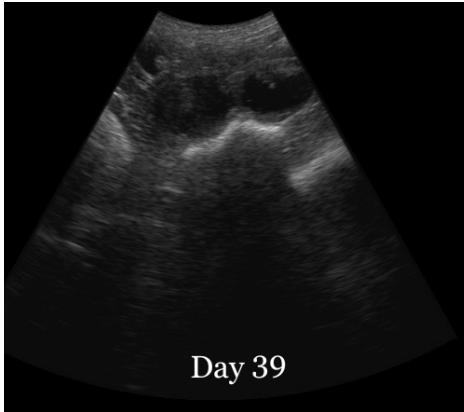
Day 25-32: Amniotic fluid pockets are present, may be able to see early embryo attachment.



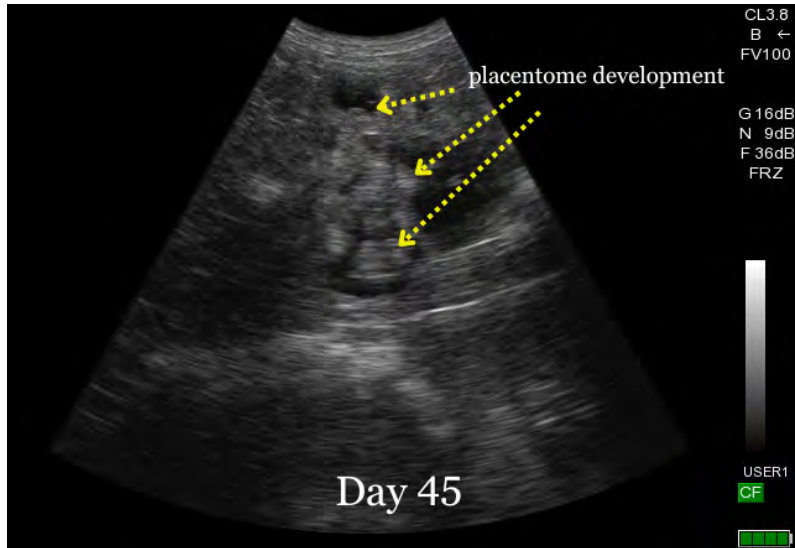
Day 35: Embryo attachment to the uterine wall is clearly shown.
*Embryo attachment occurs day 14-16 but is difficult to visualize.



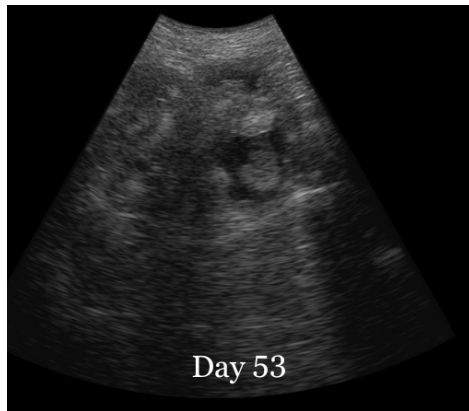
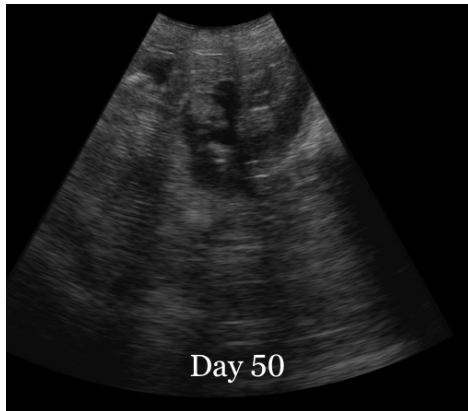
Day 39-42: Embryos are clearly shown in gestational sacs. Limb buds may be visible.



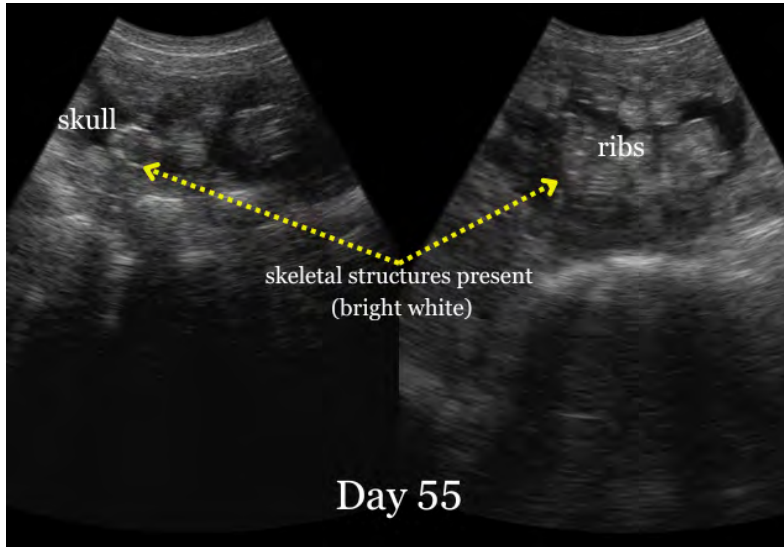
Day 45: Placentome development begins.



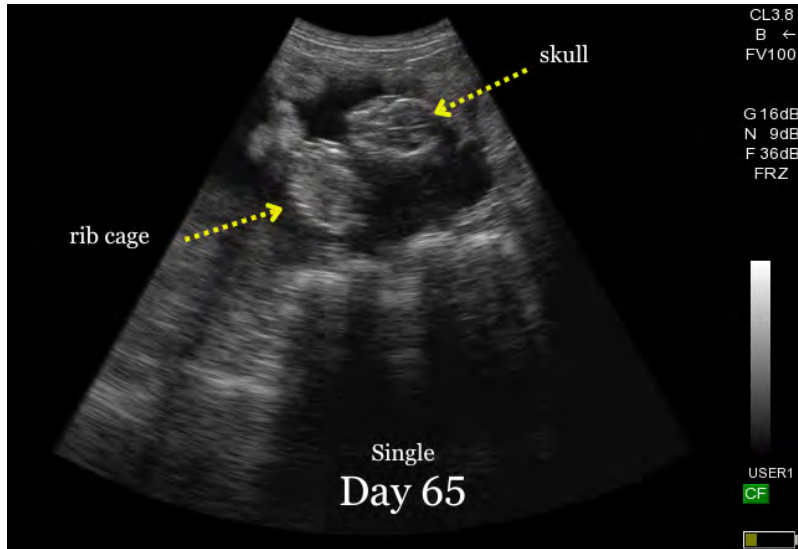
Day 50-53: Placentomes continue to develop.



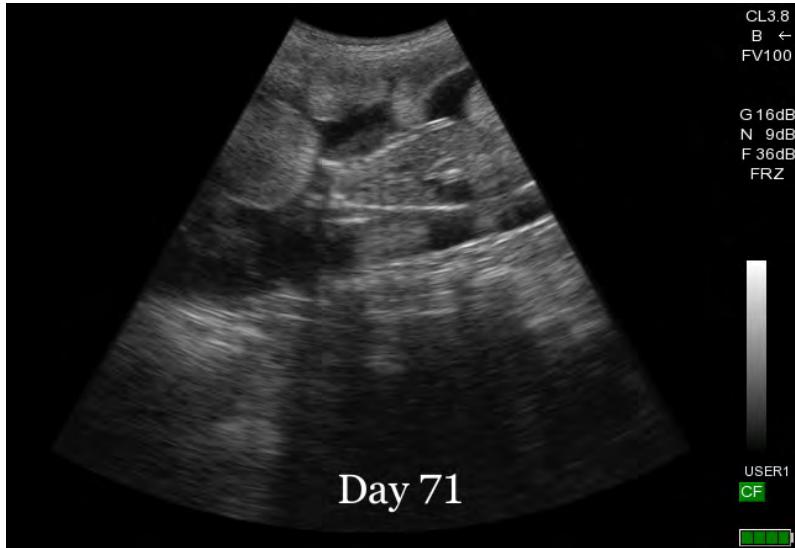
Day 55: Skeletal structures are shown as bright white.



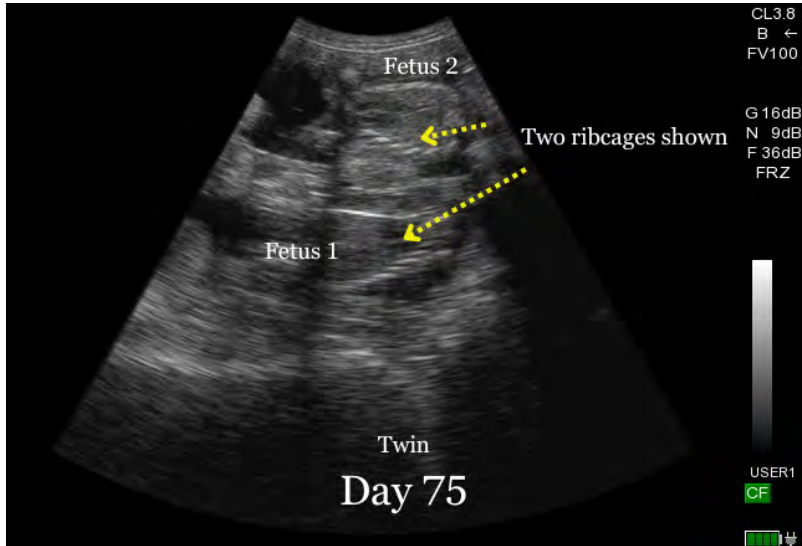
Day 61-68: Skeletal structures continue to develop and become easier to perceive.



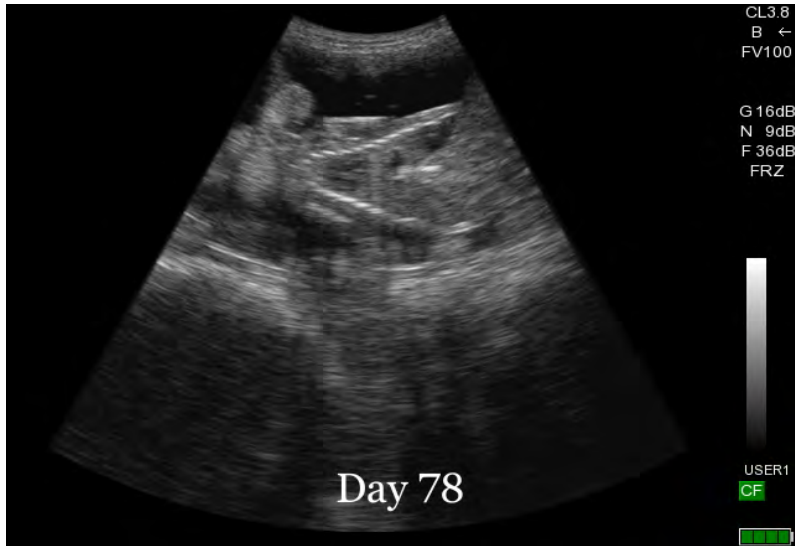
Day 71: Placentomes (top and left of image) are larger and may interfere with visuals.



Day 75: Joints are highly visible. Ultrasound probe may need to be moved lower on abdomen for future ultrasounds.



Day 78-82: Fetus fills most of uterine space and is difficult to view whole body in one frame. Image below shows a single rib cage.



Day 90+: Placentomes and fetus(es) are very large.

