Ontario Sheep Health Program

Biosecurity Assessment Form

Name	
Veterinarian's name	
Date of visit	**OSHP #**

This form is designed to assess general flock biosecurity. For producers enrolled in the Ontario Maedi Visna Flock Status Program (OMVFSP) a separate form is to be used to assess whether the producer meets the requirements.

Area of risk	Notes
Risk from animals	NB: risk from animals is generally higher than risk from people or equipment
Direct contact with livestock Risks from: Shared housing, pastures, fence lines with ruminants. Travel to fairs, shows with contact with other ruminants. Rank of species by risk (highest to lowest) Sheep; goats; cattle; farmed deer; llamas/alpacas; wild deer; horses and swine. Boundary fencing in good repair.	
Introduction of new genetics Rank by risk (highest to lowest) 1. Ram/ewe has moved through more than one location with the risk of direct or indirect contact with animals of lower or unknown health status (e.g. sales barn, share ram with another open flock). 2. Direct from farm of origin but health status is lower or unknown. 3. Only virgin (i.e. first year) rams brought in direct from farm of origin. 4. Rams/ewes purchased from single source of known health status. 5. AI or embryo transfer from CFIA accredited collection centres.	
Isolation of new introductions/sick sheep New introductions or sheep being treated for disease should be isolated from main flock for a period of time (depending on disease of issue). Isolation facility: No shared feeders, waterers, milking equipment, pasture, air space. Procedures prior to release: e.g. treatment for external and internal parasites, foot bath for contagious foot rot; vaccination; serology for specific diseases; fecal culture for Johne's disease.	
Reduce risk by animal flow Replacement animals raised in cleanest environment away from adults.	
Indirect contact with livestock and byproducts Rank of species by risk (as above): Byproducts: dead animals and offal, manure, birth products, urine. Facilities where indirect contact occurs: livestock trucks; sale/show barns; pastures; weigh scales. Proximity to farm: across fence lines, down wind, down river.	
Management of deadstock Promptly removed from buildings or pastures and disposal method discourages predators, carrion birds (buried/composted/removed) Do not allow dogs access to sheep carcasses.	

Area of risk	Notes
Management of manure Should be composted > 1 year and turned at least once during this time. Manure not composted should not be: • Spread on pastures or hay fields; • Accepted from off-farm for composting or disposal; or • Be situated so that sheep have access to manure or runoff from pile.	
Risk from non-food animals Examples of diseases from non-food animals: • Cats: toxoplasmosis, coxiellosis, rabies; • Dogs and wild canids: cysticercosis, hydatid disease, neospora, rabies; • Rodent vermin: toxoplasmosis, coxiellosis, salmonella, leptospirosis; • Birds (carrion eating): campylobacter, salmonella; and • Raccoons, skunks, foxes, opossum: rabies, sarcosporidia. Control of vermin (poison, trapping, cats). Neuter and vaccinate farm dogs and cats against rabies. Control fecal contamination of feed by non-food animals. Yards around animal buildings clean and buildings repaired. Rodent control practiced.	
Risk from people and equipment	
Limiting access to farm Farm restricted access (gate or chain across lane). Information signs restricting access to buildings/farm.	
Visitors to farm Specific boots and coveralls for all visitors. Change area away from sheep barn. Wash hands with disinfectant soap (e.g. chlorhexidine). Disinfectant footbath at barn entrance with boot brush – changed frequently. Management of veterinarian/ultrasound technician, etc. as a risk.	
Feed and water Well over 15 metres deep to avoid surface contamination. Water dispensed from bowls or elevated trough or nipple waterers. Feed off ground. Feeder design limits fecal contamination. Fence animals from access to ponds, marshes or water courses.	
Veterinary equipment and surgery Single use needles. Disposal of used needles in a plastic container with lid. Disinfect “surgical” equipment between uses? (e.g. tattooers, ear taggers, knives for castration/tail docking).	
Shearing Is the shearing equipment (blades, piece, board) used on more than this flock? If yes, disinfect before used in flock. Outside shearer: clean clothing and footgear. If flock infected with CLA: • Shear young sheep first, abscessed sheep last; • Treat all shearing wounds with iodine; and • Disinfect blades/equipment as necessary.	
Livestock vehicles If vehicle not dedicated solely to single farm: Load market/cull animals (i.e. not returning) at perimeter of farm and use .separate clothing/footwear to transport to abattoir/sales barn. All returning stock must be transported in clean, power washed and disinfected vehicle with fresh bedding.	