



# Ontario Maedi Visna Flock Status Program

## About Maedi-Visna

- Maedi-Visna is a chronic viral infection affecting both sheep and goats, and can be a major source of economic loss.
- Disease symptoms can include pneumonia, mastitis, wasting, and arthritis.
- Viral transmission occurs primarily through colostrum/milk and nasal secretions, so the newborn lamb is the most susceptible to infection.
- Control of the virus can occur through flock management and regular testing.

## The Ontario Maedi-Visna Flock Status Program (OMVFSP)

### Testing your flock

- Blood is collected by your flock veterinarian and samples are sent to the Animal Health Lab at the University of Guelph at a cost of \$11.00 per sample.
- Results are sent to Ontario Sheep Farmers (OSF), and OSF then informs you and your vet of your test results.

### The Whole Flock Program

- On the initial test, all animals 180 days of age and older are tested.
- If all the sheep test negative, the flock status becomes **enrolled-negative**, and you can take the qualifying test for a 'B' status flock in 180-395 days after the initial flock test.
- If the flock tests negative on the second test, you receive a 'B' status, and are eligible to qualify for an 'A' status test in 180-395 days after the last flock test.
- To qualify for 'A' status, a third qualifying test of a random sample of sheep 365 days of age or older must also be negative.
- If the initial flock tests positive, you receive an **'enrolled'** status. You must remove all of the positive sheep, including lambs <180 days of age, from your flock. Positive ewes with lambs < 180 days old must be isolated from the flock until the lamb reaches market weight.
- If you have positive test results on a whole flock test you are required to do a follow up test in 90 to 180 days.

### The Monitored Program

- Is designed to reduce the cost of testing for large flocks.
- A random sample of sheep 365 days or older are tested.
  - If the results are **negative**, the flock receives a 'monitored' status.
  - If the results are **positive**, no status is given.

## For more information about the OMVFSP

- Online: <http://www.ontariosheep.org/maedi-visna>
- To enroll: Contact the Ontario Sheep Farmers office  
P: 519.836.0043  
E: [admin@ontariosheep.org](mailto:admin@ontariosheep.org)