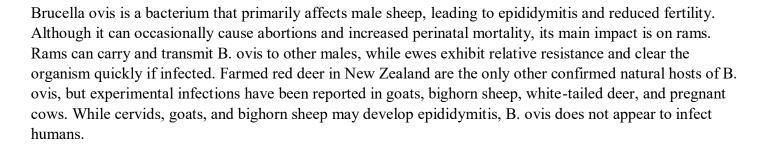
# Ovine Epididymitis

## Brucella ovis in Sheep and Goats



#### CAUSES OF B. ovis

B. ovis is primarily introduced into a flock through infected animals or semen. Preventing contact between B. ovis-free flocks and potentially infected sheep is crucial to avoid transmission. Rams should not be housed with rams of unknown B. ovis status, and caution should be exercised when breeding ewes recently mated by such

#### PREVENTION OF B. ovis

To prevent the transmission of B. ovis in flocks:

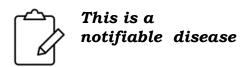
Avoid contact between B. ovis-free flocks and potentially infected sheep, especially rams.

Test sheep for B. ovis before entering artificial insemination facilities or crossing borders.

Consider using accredited B. ovis-free flocks and rams or test new rams before introducing them to uninfected flocks.

Palpate the scrotum of rams and perform laboratory tests on those with abnormalities to screen for B. ovis.

Cull all rams or implement a test-and-slaughter program



#### Sources

"Brucellosis: Brucella Ovis - CFSPH. (n.d.-b). https://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/brucellosis ovis.pdf"

#### SYMPTOMS OF B. ovis

Symptoms of B. ovis in sheep and goats include:

- Epididymitis: Rams typically develop epididymitis, characterized by inflammation of the epididymis, which can lead to swelling, pain, and reduced fertility.
- Abscesses: While less common, abscesses may occasionally form in other parts of the body, such as the scrotum or prepuce.
- Generally asymptomatic in ewes

### TREATMENT OF B. ovis

There is currently no specific treatment for B. ovis infection in sheep and goats. Once a ram is infected, it becomes a carrier and can transmit the bacterium to other animals. Therefore, management strategies typically focus on preventing the spread of B. ovis within the flock. Vaccinations and isolation are good preventative measures but be sure to contact your veterinarian for professional help.

Factsheet provided by:

The Idaho Sheep & Goat Health Board

